SPORTS / A29

US boxing writers honor Pacquiao as Fighter of the Year

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

Dollywood: Bong Revilla, ex, spotted on same flight to Hong Kong

BUSINESS / B1

2006 remittances surge 19.4% to hit $12.8B

ENTERTAINMENT / G4

Several presenters, awardees at Grammys wear Monique Lhuillier, including Scarlett Johansson

US shuts out '06 nursing graduates unless ...

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINO NURSES WHO PASSED THE CONTROversial June 2006 licensure examination can kiss their American dream goodbye unless they take new tests.

"After careful consideration, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS International) has decided that those

US SHUTS/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, February 16, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 70 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Siesta good for heart, Greek study shows

CHICAGO—FORGET oatmeal and sweaty workouts, if it's heart disease you're worried about, the best insurance policy might be a regular afternoon nap, a study released Monday said.

SIESTA/ A5

MABUTI NA LANG MAHILIG TAYO DYAN!

SC creates courts to conduct trials for extrajudicial killings

GROUNDBREAKING CERE...
DAY CARE CENTER & MU... PURPOSE HALL

SHOOTING GMA: Budding photojournalists at the Don Bosco school in Parañaque take photos of President Arroyo with their cell phones during the groundbreaking rites for a day care center in the Don Bosco compound. The event also marked the 58th birthday of Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia. LYN RILLON

By Leila B. Salaverria

CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO PUNO said yesterday after a meeting with United Nations human rights investigators that the Supreme Court would establish within a week special tribunals to conduct swift trials of suspects in extrajudicial killings.

"This will be part of our effort to resolve all these special types of cases. This will go high in our priority list," Puno said. "The extrajudicial taking of life is the ultimate violation of human rights. It cannot be allowed anywhere, and it has to be resisted everywhere."

In a statement issued after a meeting with a delegation headed by Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission for Human Rights for Extrajudi-

SC CREATES/ A8

Stocks hit 10-year high

EU to ask GMA: Why can't we get Melo report?

By Cynthia D. Balana, Fe Zamora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE EUROPEAN UNION WILL SEEK MORE information on the Melo Commission's report on the killing of journalists and leftist activists despite Malacañang's refusal to provide the EU a copy.

Eneko Landaburu, the European Commission's director general for external relations, met with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday to clarify the refusal. But it could not be immediately determined if the matter was indeed taken up at the meeting.

The European Commission is the executive body of the 27-nation EU.

"I'm going to see your President this afternoon and we'll discuss exactly the issue, and

EU TO ASK/ A8

EDWIN BACASMAS

DEEP CONCERN: Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions, conveys his concern to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez over the Communist Party's "legal fronts" being treated like enemies.

Peso also closes just shy of 6-year record

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Doris C. Dumlao

SHARE PRICES AT THE STOCK MARKET YESterday reached levels that were last seen just before the Asian crisis 10 years ago, while the peso also performed well—closing just shy of a six-year high.

At the close of trading, the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) extended its rally for the second day to 3,379.37, posting a 78.4-point gain, or 2.4 percent.

It was the best finish since Feb. 10, 1997, when it ended at 3,386.02.

At the Philippine Dealing System, the peso gained a hefty 25 centavos to close at 48.25 against the dollar from Wednesday's finish of 48.50:$1.

The currency hit an intra-day high of 48.23:$1, nearly hitting the 48.20 mark that was set on March 14, 2001.

Since the start of this year, the peso has appreciated by 78 centavos or about 1.6 percent. A total of $534.55 million was traded at the dealing system.

Yesterday's gains also brought the PSE main index closer to its all-time high of 3,447.60—recorded on Feb. 3, 1997—which analysts believe may be breached given the bullish sentiment.

The broader all-share index rose 49.44 points, or 2.4 percent, to 2,127.55.

Value turnover for the day rose to P5.76 billion from P5.17 billion the previous day. There were 107 gainers over 24 losers, while 50 stocks were unchanged.

Analysts said yesterday's strong close at the stock market was fueled by the upgrade of the country's ranking in the closely watched investment list of US pension fund, California Public Employees Retirement System (Calpers).

The Philippines edged up the Calpers investment roster of emerging markets to 10th place from 14th place, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Wednesday.

A stronger US market and favorable local corporate earnings

STOCKS/ A20

UNO 'guest candidates' may be junked

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christian V. Esguerra

THE OPPOSITION'S "GUEST candidates"—Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Francis Pangilinan—may be "junked" on election day if they do not carry the rest of the ticket, the campaign spokesperson for the opposition's senatorial slate said yesterday.

Some opposition leaders have reportedly complained about requiring them to campaign for Villar and Pangilinan, when the two were not rooting for the entire slate.

Villar will attend the proclamation rally of the opposition's Genuine Opposition senatorial ticket, the slate's campaign spokesperson told the INQUIRER last night.

Adel Tamano, spokesperson for the coalition, added that Pangilinan was also likely to attend the ticket's coming-out party.

"Manny Villar is already 100-percent sure. As for Pangilinan, an announcement will be made by Sen. Franklin Drilon," Tamano told the INQUIRER.

Tamano said the Genuine Opposition's proclamation rally is scheduled for Feb. 24 somewhere in Makati City.

"It will probably be at the University of Makati but that has yet to be final," Tamano said.

UNO/ A12

EDWIN BACASMAS

LOOK, MA, NO HANDCUFFS: The PNP guards' designated driver is no less than one of the nine suspected NPA hired guns they nabbed at a checkpoint in Biñan, Laguna, on Wednesday. He drove to his (and fellow suspects') own inquest at the justice department all the way from their detention cell in Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna.

REMING'S RUINS REVISITED

'Like a monster eating everything'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

(Second of three parts)

WHAT GRIM REMINDERS OF the savagery of Supertyphoon "Reming" lie under Romer Neo's white shirt.

He lifted it to reveal a skinny torso now tattooed with welts, bruises and scars—marks that would forever remind him of the wife, four of five children, and modest home that he lost to the great wall of water, mud and boulders that rolled down the slopes of Mount Mayon.

The man is haunted by one thought: His loved ones might be alive today had he followed his instincts.

At noon last Nov. 30, the Neos were getting ready to leave their house in Barangay Busay in Daraga, Albay, for their other house on a nearby hill.

Romer had earlier cooked *pancit* for the late lunch the family was supposed to share after settling down in their hilltop refuge.

But a group of relatives, drenched to the bone, came knocking, seeking shelter. There were three families in all, and

LIKE/ A20

SPECIAL REPORT
Project Editor
Rosario A. Garcellano

Heartrending stories pour out of survivors

By Jocelyn R. Uy

REHABILITATION EFFORTS will be for naught if the mental and psycho-social needs of the survivors of "Reming" are not met, according to Dr. Virgilio Ludovice, chief of the health operation division of the Department of Health regional office in Albay.

"We should take care of the mind, too, because it com-

HEARTRENDING/ A20

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Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
(1) (2) (6) | (7) (0) (7)
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Eastern Visayas and the rest of Mindanao will be cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/02/15/07 SOURCE PAGASA

AFP camps off limits to bets

By Christine O. Avendaño

CANDIDATES IN THE MAY elections may not campaign in military camps and their posters and other paraphernalia are not welcome either.

Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including its civilian employees, are likewise barred from endorsing or campaigning for political candidates in the camps. And this includes President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Commander in Chief.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday made this clear in guidelines he issued to all major service and camp commanders.

"These guidelines were set not to infringe on the individual rights of our soldiers and civilian employees but rather to ensure that the AFP as an organization remains nonpartisan," Esperon said in a statement he read at a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

The chief of staff reminded AFP personnel the Constitution prohibits them from engaging directly or indirectly in any partisan political activity except to vote, while the Omnibus Election Code deems it an election offense to use any military facility, vehicle or equipment for any political activity.

"Aside from being a prohibitive act, allowing political campaigns inside military camps dilutes the AFP's nonpartisan character and may compromise camp security," he said.

Asked if President Arroyo, as the Commander in Chief, was also barred from campaigning for her candidates in military camps, Esperon reiterated: "As we said, there is no distinction."

First test

The guidelines will be quickly put to the test tomorrow when Philippine Military Academy alumni gather for their annual homecoming at the PMA grounds in Baguio City.

The event is expected to be attended by some candidates, definitely by Senate President Manuel Villar who is this year's guest of honor and speaker. Villar, erstwhile ally of President Arroyo, is seeking reelection as an independent but is a drafted candidate in the opposition slate.

Esperon asked Villar and any candidates coming to the homecoming, as well as PMA alumni, to refrain from campaigning during the affair.

He said campaign posters and streamers put up in military camps would be torn down and campaign leaflets would be confiscated.

He reminded candidates of the Commission on Elections rules on the proper places to post campaign materials.

Why Villar?

"We appeal to them not to attach any of their banners to our fences as that would mean, could mean our involvement in their candidacies," he said.

Asked why Villar had been invited to speak at the homecoming, Esperon said the invitation was made last December by the PMA Alumni Association Inc. in the former's capacity as Senate President and long before he had declared his reelection plans.

"I would like to believe the good senator will be going there in his capacity as Senate President and therefore we don't expect him to campaign," Esperon said.

Introducing, the Sultan of Brunei....er, Sulu

IT WAS A BLOOPER BUT NO doubt a pleasurable one to the "victim," Jamalul Kiram III, the Sultan of Sulu, who clinched the last slot in in the administration's Team Unity ticket.

Introducing Kiram to the crowd in Parañaque yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo blurted out, "Sultan of Brunei," but recovered quickly, covering her mouth and giggling

"Sulu," the President corrected herself.

The introduction brought a historical frisson to the occasion, the groundbreaking rites for a P2-million daycare center and multipurpose hall inside the Don Bosco complex in Parañaque.

Brunei is the tiny, oil-rich sultanate in the northwestern corner of Borneo which besides Brunei includes the Indonesian territory of Kalimantan and the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak.

The Philippines continues to lay claim to Sabah on the strength of the ownership claim of the Sultanate of Sulu which ruled the North Bornean territory until the British claimed to have acquired it in the 19th century. In the 1960s Sabah passed to the Federation of Malaysia which continues to pay what it calls "cession" fees to the heirs of the sultanate.

Kiram, the 33rd Sultan of Sulu, is the leader of the current generation of the heirs of the Sulu sultanate.

The President and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, chair and president, respectively, of the ruling Lakas-CMD later raised the hand of the 68-year-old Kiram before an audience composed of the President's fellow Assumption College alumnae, city officials and daycare children.

The project is jointly funded by the Speaker's pork barrel, Assumption High School Batch 1966 and College Batch 1970 and the Parañaque government.

Palace officials have been denying that Kiram's inclusion in the administration slate was an afterthought.

Michael Lim Ubac

If FPJ were alive today ...

By Norman Bordadora

IF HE WERE ALIVE TODAY, Fernando Poe Jr. would have supported the candidacy of his close ally, former Sen. Tito Sotto, even under the senatorial slate of the president they had accused of "lying, cheating and stealing."

Sotto, one of Poe's campaign leaders against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential elections, made this assertion yesterday in a news forum, adding that the late presidential candidate would have encouraged him to run under any ticket that would have national unity as its main platform.

"This is what FPJ fought for. When FPJ agreed to run in the 2004 elections, it was because he wanted to unite the country," Sotto said.

"If FPJ were alive, he would have supported any move to unite the country," said the former senator, who is running under the Arroyo administration's Team Unity.

Sotto said he spoke to Poe's family—his widow Susan Roces and their daughter Grace. He said the two were saddened that his colleagues in the FPJ for President campaign had criticized him for joining the administration slate.

"I have visited his family, Grace and, of course, Inday Susan, and they're saddened by all these criticisms. They said that if you love FPJ, (you'd refrain from criticisms). FPJ didn't want any mudslinging," he said.

Sotto said Roces understood his decision to run under the administration party and would support him in his senatorial campaign.

"She said FPJ would have supported me. Anything that will unite the country, FPJ would pursue," Sotto said.

"She understands my situation ... Yes, she will support me," he added.

Asked about his move to a party he had accused of cheating in the 2004 election, Sotto said the country, to move forward, should not dwell on the past.

"I joined the (Nationalist People's Coalition) and the NPC has entered into a coalition with the administration. I have to respect the coalition that my party has entered into," Sotto said.

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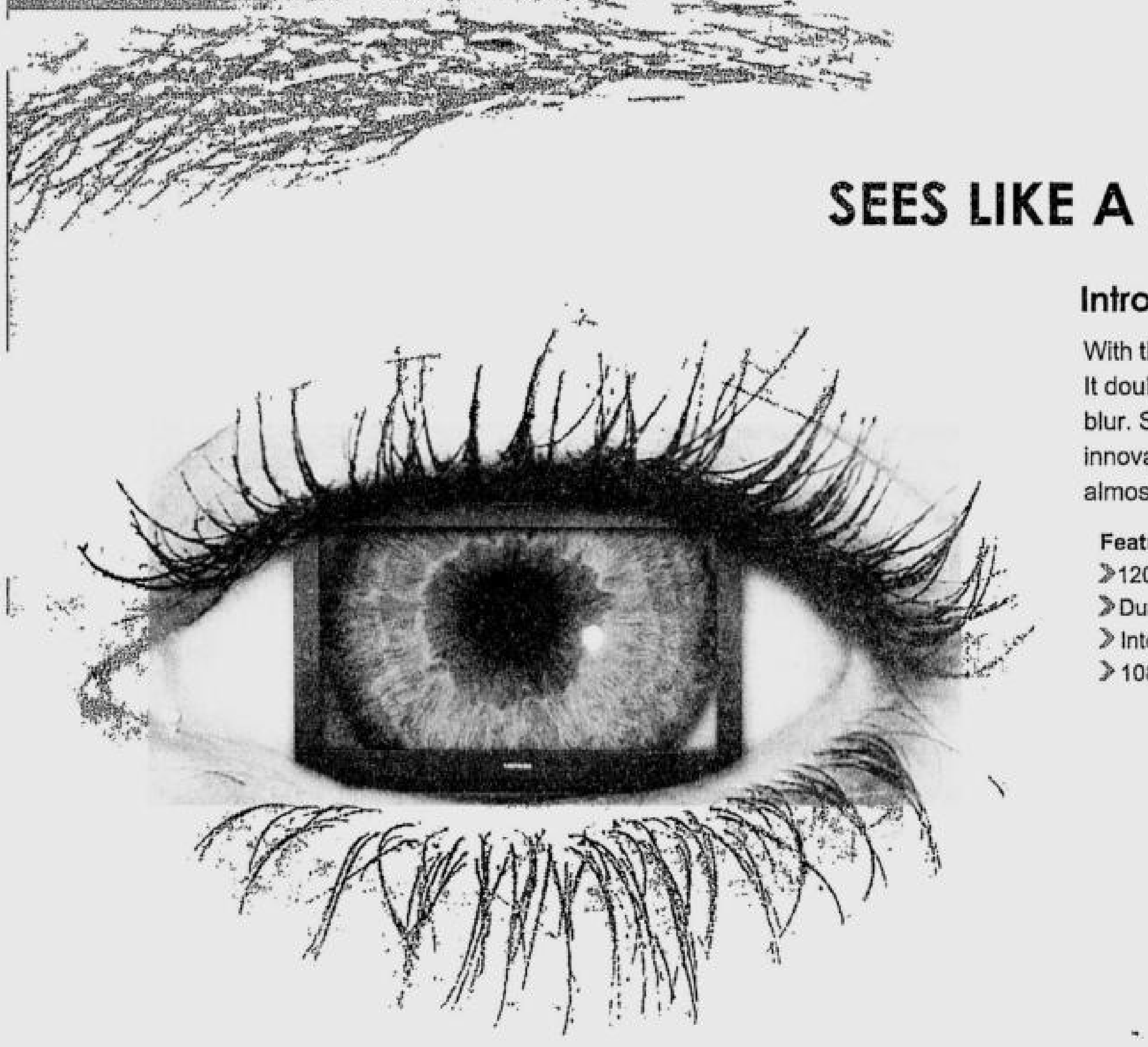

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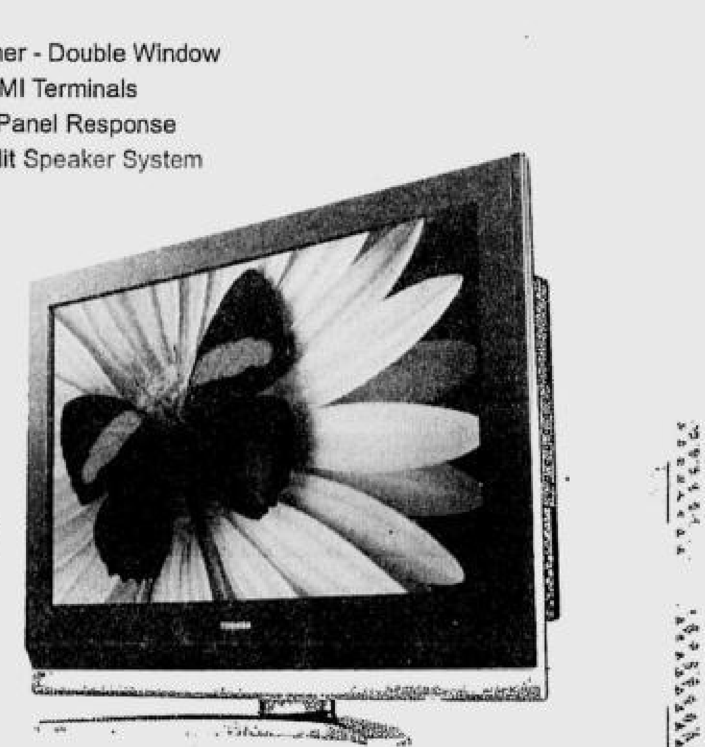

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No clemency for Jalosjos, court rules

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT LOOKS LIKE CONVICTED child rapist former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos was right when he said getting absolute pardon was an "impossible dream."

A Makati lower court yesterday rejected Jalosjos's application for executive clemency which he filed before the Board of Pardons and Parole of the Department of Justice last month.

Judge Selma Alaras of the Regional Trial Court Branch 62 declared in a letter to parole officer Ernesto Dizon that the court found "more than sufficient reasons to vehemently oppose the granting of the application... at this time."

Under the revised rules and regulations of the Board of Pardon and Parole, a petition for executive clemency may be reviewed if the prisoner convicted of a heinous crime has already served at least 15 years in jail on or after Jan. 1, 1994.

"Applying the quoted provision of your own rules, the convict is nowhere near the 15 years required to qualify him for executive clemency," Alaras stated.

The 66-year-old Jalosjos, sentenced to double life for raping an 11-year-old girl, was put behind bars upon his arrest on Jan. 17, 1997.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!

Ultrashape – Lipo Without The Suction continues to make waves in the slimming industry since its official launch in Manila early last year. Tagged as the first non-invasive breakthrough in body contouring, Ultrashape uses an ultrasound beam to breakdown and liquefy fats from outside the body. Promising an average reduction of about 2cm in just one treatment, it effectively reduces fat deposits on multiple body areas such as the tummy, flanks and thighs.

A small amount of fat reduction is just not worth undergoing surgery for. Liposuction usually involves massive body contouring, and is often not recommended when only a few inches of fat have to be removed. Thus, for the majority of people who only need a few touch-ups, Ultrashape offers a much safer alternative. It gives the benefits of liposuction without the risks or side effects, surgical scars and downtime. The result: Smooth, even and shapely curves you can flaunt even without your clothes on!

Due to its increasing popularity, demand for Ultrashape is high often resulting to fully booked appointment schedules from its growing roster of clients. These women have testified – they have finally found the best alternative to liposuction!

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, 37

"When Ultrashape was offered to me, I was excited! Ultrashape concentrates on that last hard-to-lose fat that remains in your body even after you've lost weight. I told myself, at last, there was a chance to lose all that stubborn fat that just wouldn't seem to go away. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. The treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month.

Ultrashape is really the perfect finishing touch for people like me who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Lyn Ching-Pascual, 34

"What intrigued me about Ultrashape is the claim – the easy treatment you can have in your lunch break. Apart from that, a friend of mine said that her friend tried Ultrashape as soon as it came out in the market. And she immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape promises an average of about 2cm, that's true, but it's also possible for someone to lose even more than that too. That's why for me, even if liposuction was the only weight-loss treatment available, I'd rather walk up a building 100 times than have an operation because I don't want the possibility of dying for vanity.

With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a better slimming option. Since it's non-invasive, I've got nothing to worry about. After trying it firsthand, I was like 'is this real?!' I just walked in, got the treatment and after an hour, I was on my way back to work again! It's as if nothing happened. The best part was, I could feel my tummy flatten only after a few weeks! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down excess fats!"

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, 42

"Nothing really compares to Ultrashape. When I tried it, I immediately lost 4cm in my tummy after only 1 session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do! Diet pills and crash dieting don't work for me. With my catering and events business, I can't just turn my back from tasting and savoring my own menus. More so, if it's lipo we're going to compare Ultrashape with, lipo doesn't even come close to it as far as safety is concerned. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle for liposuction?! I must be very desperate or I must be so fat that I could no longer move before I'd consider getting it done. I just find it too dangerous!"

Undeniably, Marie France's Ultrashape is solid proof that the trends in slimming now slant towards the approach that's safer yet as effective. After going through a weight-loss program, it is highly recommended to continue with Ultrashape treatments right after. It's the best final touch-up in getting rid of remaining stubborn fats in the body. For booking schedules, call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639).

ADVT.

24 freed Pinoy sailors home tomorrow from Nigeria

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE 24 FILIPINO SEAFARERS FREED BY their kidnappers in Nigeria early this week will arrive in Manila tomorrow, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal said the seamen arrived in Nigeria's capital Abuja yesterday. Members of the Filipino community welcomed the seafarers, along with Philippine Ambassador to Nigeria Masaranga Umpa and Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos.

The seamen were seized on Jan. 20 by gunmen from a Nigerian-flagged, German-owned cargo ship Baco-Liner 2 off the coast of Nigeria.

Appropriate arrangements

The seamen will depart from Abuja for Manila on Friday at 5 p.m. and will take three connecting flights, the last in Hong Kong. They are scheduled to land at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Saturday at 6:40 p.m.

"The DFA, the RP manning agency and all relevant government agencies, particularly the OWWA, are coordinating closely to give effect to the union between the seafarers and their families soon after their arrival in Manila. Appropriate arrangements are being made as we speak," Cristobal told reporters.

In good spirits

Cristobal said the seamen "continue to be in good spirits, in very sound shape."

"Nonetheless, appropriate arrangements are being made so that their medical needs, and their psychological needs, should there be any, are being attended to," he added.

Cristobal also said he had no new development to report regarding the case of two other Filipino kidnap victims—engineer Winston Helera, believed being held somewhere in the Nigeria's river state of Owerri—and Josiebeth Faroozan.

Exchange

Reports said that Helera's kidnappers wanted two political prisoners released in exchange for the engineer's freedom. Faroozan, reported to have been snatched by armed men on her way to the bank in Port Harcourt last week, could not be located.

There are about 3,900 Filipinos working in the impoverished African country, mostly in the oil industry. Last year, seven Filipinos were among the 121 people kidnapped in Nigeria, but they were freed unharmed.

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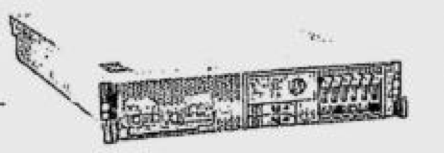

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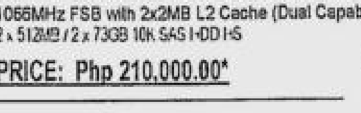

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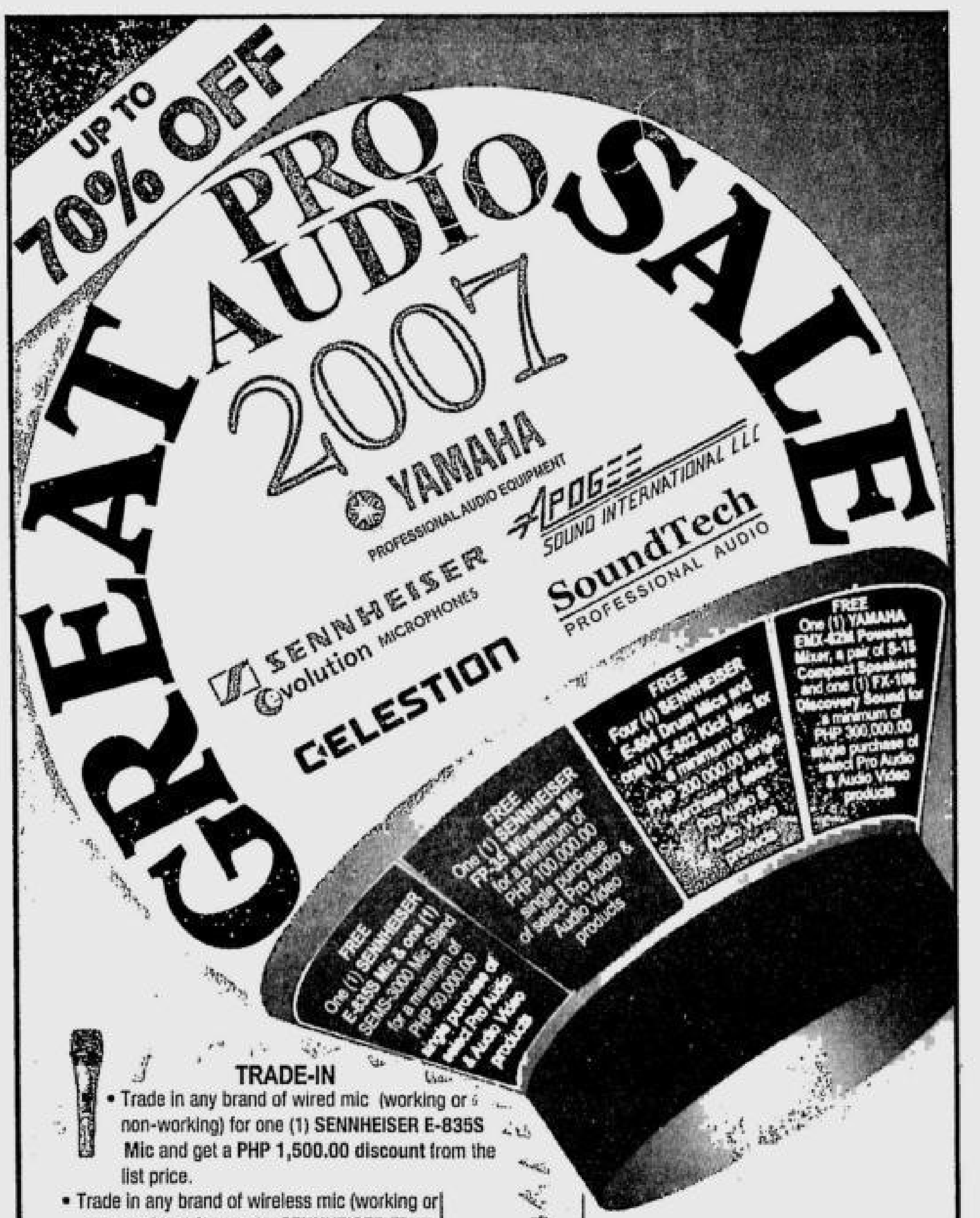
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US shuts out '06 nursing graduates …

From page A1

Philippine nurses who were sworn in as licensed nurses in the Philippines following their passing the compromised licensure exam of June 2006 are not eligible for a VisaScreen Certificate," the CGFNS said in a statement posted on its website yesterday.

The CGFNS decision came less than a week after American officials approved the Philippines' application to be a testing center for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

The NCLEX exam, taken by some 9,000 Filipinos annually, is a key requirement for nurses to be able to work in the United States.

However, they would still need to have CGFNS VisaScreen Certificates, which refers to the program offered by the CGFNS' International Commission on Healthcare Professions that helps foreign health care professionals qualify for certain occupational visas.

Fact-finding mission

The Philadelphia-based CGFNS noted that it sent a fact-finding mission to the Philippines in September 2006 to investigate the reports of irregularities in last year's nursing licensure exam.

The exam was hounded by accusations of a leakage of test questions.

"CGFNS has concluded that the licensure process for those who received their license as a result of passing the compromised June 2006 licensure examination raises significant questions about the accurate assessment of the competencies of many of those individuals," it said.

"Therefore, CGFNS is unable to certify that the licensure is comparable to a US license," it said.

"In this instance, applicable US immigration law will not permit CGFNS to issue the VisaScreen Certificate required of internationally educated health care workers to those nurses who obtained Philippine licensure on the basis of passing the June 2006 nursing licensure examination."

Integrity of foreign licensing

Nevertheless, the CGFNS said that the June 2006 passers can qualify for a VisaScreen Certificate "by taking the equivalent of Tests 3 and 5 on a future licensing examination administered by Philippine regulatory authorities and obtaining a passing score."

The CGFNS urged Philippine authorities to "provide an opportunity for a retake" for the passers "without surrender of licensure" for them to qualify for the VisaScreen Certificate.

"The integrity of foreign licensing systems ultimately affects the health and safety of patients in the United States, a primary consideration of CGFNS in its role of evaluating candidates under US immigration law. The decision announced today is made in support of this critical mission of CGFNS," it said.

On Sept. 28, 2006, Malacanang announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered a retake of the June exams to redeem the image of Filipino nurses, but Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said two days later that this could not be done unless the Court of Appeals decided on a petition for the investigation of the Professional Regulation Commission.

Siesta good for heart, Greek study shows

From page A1

That's because a little shut-eye in the middle of the day can dramatically reduce the risk of death from heart disease, presumably because of its stress-busting effect, the authors of the study said.

In fact, in a long-term study of Greek men and women, the ones who took at least three 30-minute siestas every week had a 37-percent lower risk of heart-disease related death than those who skipped an afternoon snooze.

Power nap

Among working men, the benefits of the power nap were even more striking: The men who made time for some daily downtime, either occasionally or systematically, had a 64-percent lower risk of death from heart disease than their more hard-charging compatriots.

The researchers were unable to assess the impact of the siesta on working women because of insufficient data, according to the paper in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

"We interpret our findings as indicating that among healthy adults, a siesta, possibly on account of stress-releasing consequences, may reduce coronary mortality," said the authors.

Six-year study

The findings are culled from a six-year study of more than 23,000 Greek men and women between the ages of 20 and 86. Volunteers were enrolled in 1994 and followed for more than six years, through 1999. At the end of that period, 792 participants had died, 133 of them from heart disease.

Researchers from the University of Athens Medical School in Greece and Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, hope that the results of the study will settle a question that has vexed investigators for some time, namely, whether the lower rates of coronary heart disease seen in Mediterranean and Latin American countries are related to the natives' habit of taking an afternoon siesta.

Healthy volunteers

Several studies have explored the connection, but the results have been conflicting. With this study, the researchers were careful to enroll only healthy volunteers and to take account of other risk factors, such as diet and physical activity, providing for a more robust analysis.

In Spain and Mexico, the cultural institution of the daily siesta has come under attack in recent years, with critics arguing that the midday work stoppage puts businesses at a competitive disadvantage in today's global economy.

Bad on bottom line

But the authors of this study suggest that what may be bad for the bottom line may be extremely good for the health of employees.

"The public health message is clear—if you can take a midday nap, do so," said Dimitrios Trichopoulos, professor of epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health.

Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide, with the highest rates of the disease seen in developing countries, according to the World Health Organization.

AFP

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- ***Even when Mom has breast or nipple problem.*** Correct positioning and attachment of the baby to the breast prevents painful and cracking nipples. And even if the mother's nipple is flat, under developed or inverted, the baby should be able to suckle from the breast without difficulty when given proper assistance.

- ***Even when Mom thinks she is unable to provide enough milk.*** Stop this way of thinking. Mother's breastmilk is sufficient to the needs of her baby from birth up to six months without adding anything, not even water. At six months, complementary foods must be introduced while continuing breastfeeding up to two years and beyond. Take note that the more suckling, the more breastmilk that is produced.

- ***Even when the child is ill.*** The more breastmilk is important because it contains antibodies that protect the child from infections.

- ***Even when the Mom is ill due to tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc.*** The danger of infecting the infant of TB is not by breastfeeding but rather through infected droplets from coughs or sneezes. It is important that the mother is treated with anti-TB drugs to prevent transmission. On the other hand, there is no risk of hepatitis B transmission through breastfeeding. It is also best to have the child immunized against hepatitis B.

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WAR VS TERROR

Abu wiped out this year – AFP

THE MILITARY INTENDS TO complete within the year its campaign to wipe out the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group which has been on the run for the past few months from pursuing government troops in Sulu.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said yesterday the military has deployed more troops to Sulu, bringing to 11 the number of battalions already in hot pursuit of the group linked to the al-Qaida international terror network.

One Marine battalion and one Scout Ranger test mission have been added to the troops already in Sulu, he said.

He said the number of troops in Sulu may be reduced but only if authorities are able to determine that "the threat has subsided or has been satisfactorily addressed."

ESPERON

Fresh deadline

Esperon said the military leadership was thinking of setting a fresh deadline for its Oplan Ultimatum, the intensified manhunt operation for the extremist group launched six months ago.

"But indeed we want to finish the operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu as soon as possible...within the year," he said.

After succeeding in killing top Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Solaiman and Khadaffy Janjalani, the military said it would continue the campaign until all the major Abu Sayyaf commanders—as well as the Indonesian terrorist named Dulmatin—are captured or killed.

Esperon said the military has yet to confirm reports that Dulmatin, a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group who allegedly masterminded the 2002 bombings in Bali, was wounded in an encounter.

But he said there were "indications" that Dulmatin and other Indonesians were still in Sulu.

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney said she hoped the military would be able to meet its target in Sulu within the year.

Serious blow

"I think it's very clear that the Philippine Armed Forces have struck some very serious blows against the internationally wanted terrorists and I hope they continue that," said Kenney, who gave a lecture at the National Defense College of the Philippines.

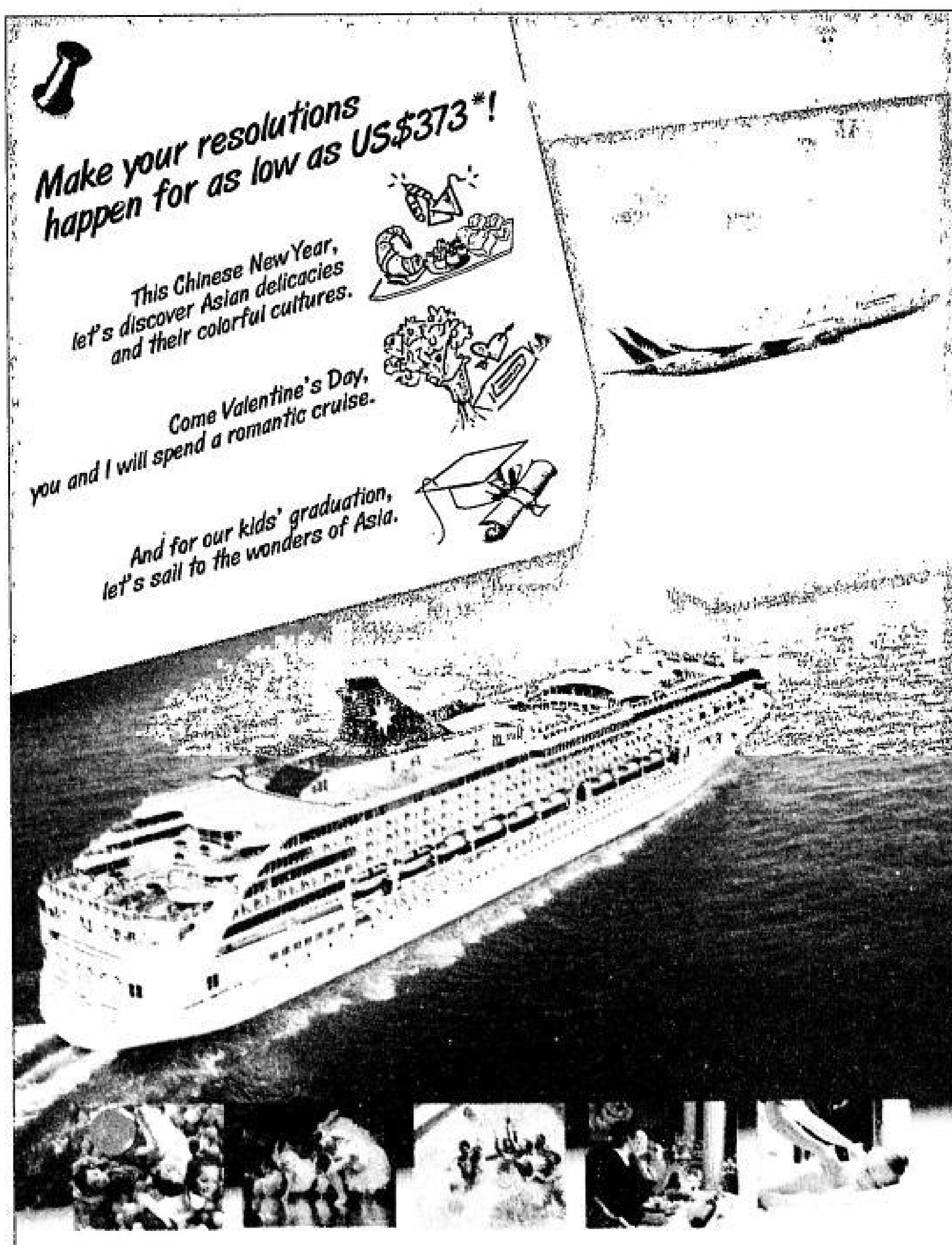
Kenney hinted the US Embassy may have already given the reward money to some of the people who helped in the capture and killing of Janjalani and Solaiman.

"We've identified some of the people who'll receive funds and we're still tracking down a few more," she said.

She said the embassy cannot say for sure whether it has already given the reward money "because people's privacy is at stake and some people, for security, have asked that we not let anyone know."

"Some people may already have the money," said Kenney.

Christine Avendaño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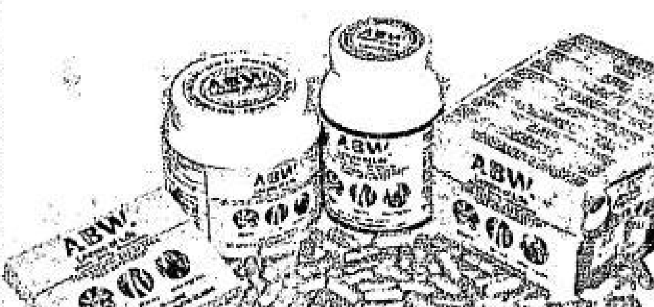

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EU to ask GMA: Why can't we get Melo report?

A CRITIC IN THE PALACE: President Arroyo meets with Eneko Landaburu, European Commission Director General for External Relations. Landaburu says he went to the Palace to clarify from the President herself the refusal to give the commission a copy of the Melo report. LYN RILLON

From page A1

we'll see [what the EU decision will be]," Landaburu told reporters during the launch of the P750-million Mindanao Health Sector Policy Program at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"At this stage, we're waiting for more official information on the report. I hope that by the next day, it will be possible to have the information that we need to be able to assess what's on the report and maybe prepare an answer," he said.

The President had sought the participation of the EU in the inquiry into the unabated killings, but the EU said it needed a copy of the report to determine how it could help.

Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, head of the EC delegation in Manila, said it would be best to hear it from Ms Arroyo herself.

"We don't rely on third-party information," MacDonald said, referring to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's remarks on Wednesday.

Ermita said on Wednesday that the 89-page report was "by no means complete" because Ms Arroyo had directed the commission chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo to continue with its work.

Thus, Ermita said, Malacañang would not be able to provide copies to the EU as well as to Philip Alston, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights' special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, who is in the Philippines on a 10-day visit.

The report has yet to be made public, but Melo has said retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and other military commanders should be held accountable for the killings on the principle of command responsibility.

Watching GMA

MacDonald, one of the members of the diplomatic corps who attended a two-hour meeting with the Melo Commission yesterday, also said the EU was watching how Ms Arroyo would implement its recommendations.

"We are certainly very interested to know how the government intends to pursue these follow-up activities," he said.

Steven Rheault-Kihara, counselor of the Canadian Embassy, said "the general consensus" of the diplomats who attended the meeting was that the commission was "very sincere and honest in its findings."

Melo, along with National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and University of the Philippines Regent Nelia Gonzales, briefed the diplomatic corps on the results of its inquiry into the killings.

The retired justice also renewed the invitation to the rights watchdog Karapatan and other militant groups to attend the commission's hearings and disclose what they knew.

"I am personally inviting Karapatan to come forward. We are ready to hear them," Melo said.

But a member of the commission, Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos, took Karapatan to task for distrusting the commission's efforts.

"*Sayang talaga* (It's such a pity). It (the report) could have been more objective. That's why I am really blaming them," the bishop said in a phone interview.

Disservice to victims

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said Malacañang's refusal to furnish Alston and the EU copies of the Melo report was "a disservice to all victims of human rights abuses."

"In failing to release the report, the Arroyo government only shows callousness toward the victims and gross insincerity in stopping the cycle of state-sponsored violence," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

Reyes pointed out that a month after the Melo Commission announced that it had submitted its report to the Palace, "the Filipino people and the concerned international community [are still] in the dark."

He said a possible reason for the secrecy was that there was actually no complete report, and that the announcement of the submission of a report was intended to boost Ms Arroyo's "sagging approval ratings in the EU."

Another possible reason, he said, was the Arroyo administration's inability to hold some generals accountable for the killings, especially during the election season.

"For whatever its weaknesses may be, the Melo report has tagged generals like ... Palparan responsible for the killings. However ... it is the election season and the administration does not want to antagonize the military at this crucial period," he said, adding:

"Historically, the military is important for the electoral interests of any administration."

Reyes also speculated that the report was being held hostage by the "hawks" in the administration. He pointed out that the "finding" blaming some generals for the killings could affect Malacañang's counterinsurgency program.

Enrile

Alston and his team and the EU members met yesterday with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the current chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, in the hope of getting Congress' cooperation in their probe.

But by his account to reporters, Enrile gave his visitors a talking-to.

"They were asking questions about extrajudicial killings and I said that's a police matter, and that if there is any need to enact corrective legislation, we will do it. But we have conducted hearings on these things and the laws are sufficient to deal with the problem," said the architect of martial law in the Philippines.

Enrile recalled a similar encounter with a foreign human rights activist during the martial law era, who "came to see me and lectured me about human rights."

"I told her, 'Look, have you handled an insurgency problem in your country?' No, she said. So I said, 'Don't lecture me then on how to handle the insurgency problem,'" Enrile said.

He said he told the Alston/EU group the same thing: "I told them there is more to this problem than just suspecting other people."

According to the senator, some of his guests turned red *("namumula")* and fell silent *("hindi umiimik")*.

Enrile said he also told a German official in the group that like Germany's strategy in going after terrorists, "we do the same thing—we do intelligence work."

Interference

"We've handled insurgency problems in the country but I have never allowed foreigners to interfere with my work. After all, if this country will sink, they will be safe in their country and we Filipinos will be the ones who will suffer," he said.

Enrile said if there was a problem with the unresolved killings, "it should be the function of the department head to look into the problem."

"When I was defense secretary (under Ferdinand Marcos), when I heard of any misbehavior of any military officer or enlisted personnel, I acted immediately. I didn't have to wait for any other agency to look into the matter," he said.

Enrile also said it was he who had brought up the issue against Palparan, whom activists have tagged a *berdugo* (butcher): "I was the one who mentioned Palparan [at a] public hearing during the confirmation [of his promotion to major general], where members of the House who were complaining about him did not present complete evidence to warrant the disapproval of his confirmation."

The senator said he saw no need to rush public disclosure of the Melo report.

But he added that he did not view the foreigners' inquiry into the extrajudicial killings as undue interference: "They just want to find out if we are adhering to international conventions [on human rights] that we signed."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Alston had expressed concern over the government's treatment of supposed legal fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Enemies

Alston pointed out that the government "considers these legal fronts as enemies," Gonzalez told reporters after meeting with the UN special rapporteur at the Department of Justice.

He said Alston had maintained that leftist party-list groups were using their funds legally: "He was sticking to his position that if the [CPP] is legal, all the funds are legal."

Gonzalez said he told Alston that the legal fronts had been fighting the government.

Documents on CPP fronts

He also said the government had documents and a videotape showing Jose Ma. Sison, chief political consultant of the NDF, and his wife identifying the militant groups Migrante, Bayan and Gabriela as fronts of the CPP.

Gonzalez said Alston's report to the UN, if unfavorable, would reflect badly on the Philippines.

But the UN could not impose sanctions on the country, he said.

He likewise said that his meeting with Alston was "not antagonistic," and that he thought he had disarmed the latter.

"I thought he was already brainwashed. You know, he first met, not with the government, but with Karapatan," Gonzalez said. *With reports from DJ Yap and Leila B. Salaverria*

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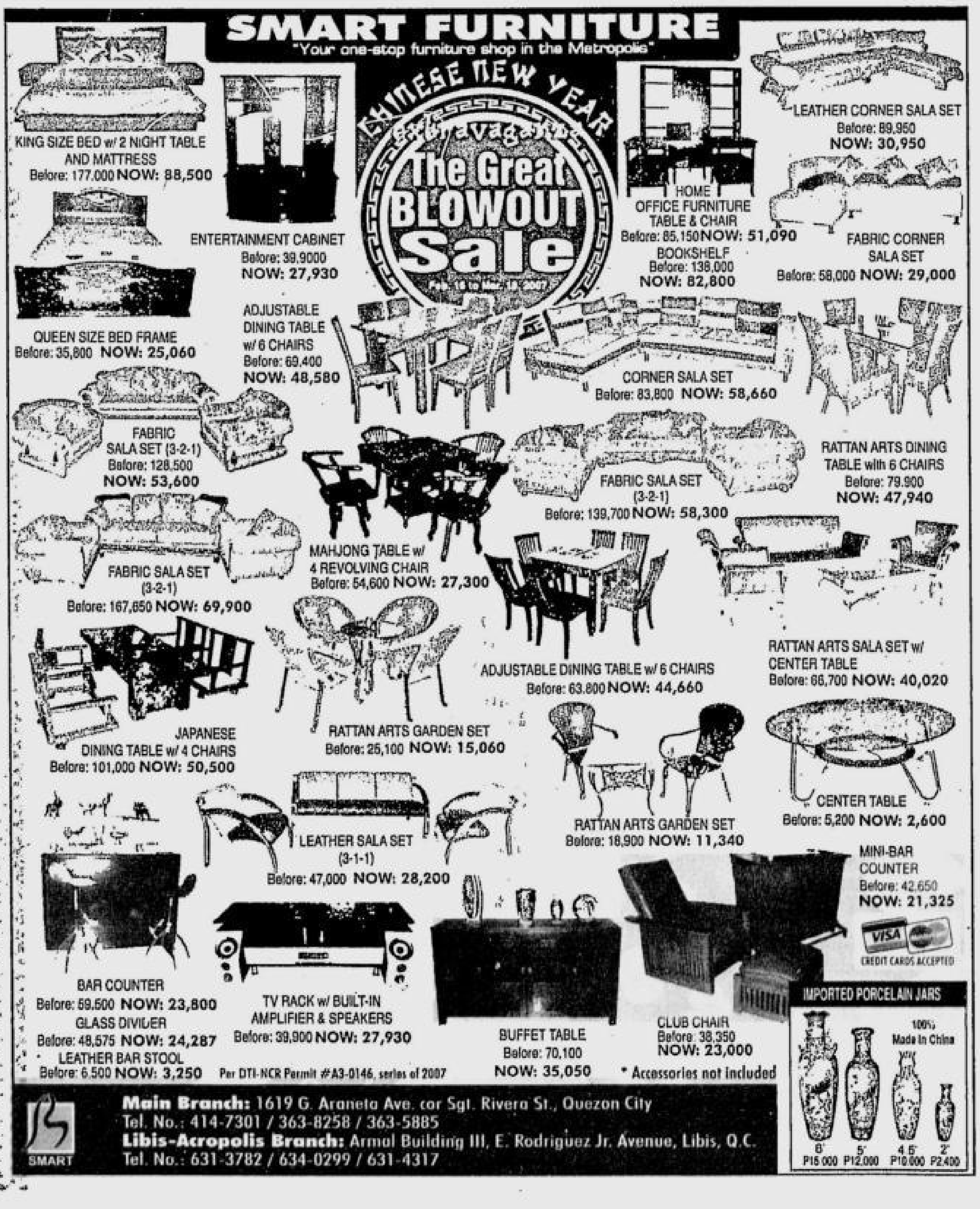

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SC creates courts to conduct trials for extrajudicial killings

From page A1

cial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Puno said the number of special courts to be set up would depend on the number of cases to be handled.

He directed the court administrator to submit an inventory of all extrajudicial killings, including cases with ideological dimensions and those involving media practitioners, in order "to pave the way for a fast resolution of these cases."

Puno also said the Supreme Court was amenable to establishing a reward system so that the resolution of cases would be speeded up. "That needs financial resources and if you look at our budget, the problem will be how to source the finances in order to raise the rewards," he said.

Local human rights group Karapatan has listed 832 alleged summary killings since 2001, and blamed security forces for their deaths. (The INQUIRER count is 272.)

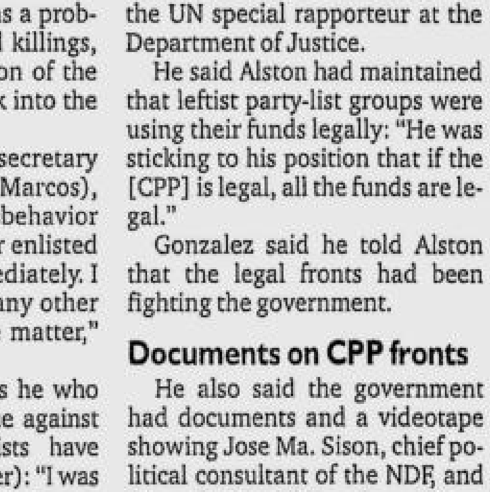
The government has disputed the Karapatan figures, which include deaths in armed clashes, and said communist rebels were killing their own people as part of a purge within the 38-year-old underground movement.

Police said they have identified one soldier, one government militiaman and one police officer in some of 21 killings they have solved.

President's request

A fact-finding commission created by President Macapagal-Arroyo has concluded that soldiers were to blame for most of the killings, its chair, former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, said last month. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Welcoming Puno's move, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that it was in fact the President who had called on the Supreme Court to form such a task force to speed up the resolution of cases of political killings. "We thank the Supreme Court for listening to the request of the President," he said.



PUNO: The extrajudicial taking of life is the ultimate violation of human rights.

Bunye also said the President had called for additional prosecutors and the widening of the witness protection program.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said that unless Department of Justice prosecutors found probable cause in the cases of alleged extrajudicial killings in their dockets, the Supreme Court's special courts would be of no use.

"The burden is on the prosecutorial arm ... Otherwise, these special courts will be idle, or worse, become whitewashing machines," Ocampo said. He pointed out that police Task Force Usig had identified six cases involving the military, four of which had been dismissed, leaving only two to be handled by the special courts. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora, AP*

Just call us GO, says opposition

By Dona Pazzibugan

PIMENTEL

THREE DAYS INTO THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, the opposition senatorial slate has decided to drop the United Opposition (UNO) tag and call the ticket the Genuine Opposition (GO).

The name was suggested by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., whose son Aquilino III is in the ticket.

Until yesterday, the opposition had not come up with an official name for the ticket after deciding to drop the UNO tag during the weekend.

As a result the media took to calling it the "Grand Coalition," which spokesperson Adel Tamano said was a misinterpretation of a phrase he used to describe the ticket, "grand and broad coalition."

Not grand or broad

Tamano said he was merely describing the opposition's coalition as something "grand and broad."

He said the UNO label had to go as it was unfair to the other political parties in the opposition coalition as the UNO was just one of the groups and parties in the political opposition.

He explained that UNO was the name of the political party of the late Fernando Poe Jr., the opposition candidate in the 2004 elections who lost to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

While the UNO name has been dropped, candidates continue to seek the endorsement of detained President Joseph Estrada, the acknowledged head of the opposition forces.

Before the government started restricting visits to the ousted leader, various opposition candidates went to Estrada's rest house in Tanay, Rizal, to have their photos taken with him.

Although the opposition has settled on a name, Tamano said it still has to set up operations, including choosing the site for its headquarters.

The ticket is now using the headquarters of the pro-Estrada Partido ng Masang Pilipino in Mandaluyong.

There is also no overall media coordinator yet so candidates send their campaign schedules to media outlets individually.

"We're still fixing that. I am also having difficulty with the situation. I'll tell the people who need to know this that this should be solved as soon as possible," he said.

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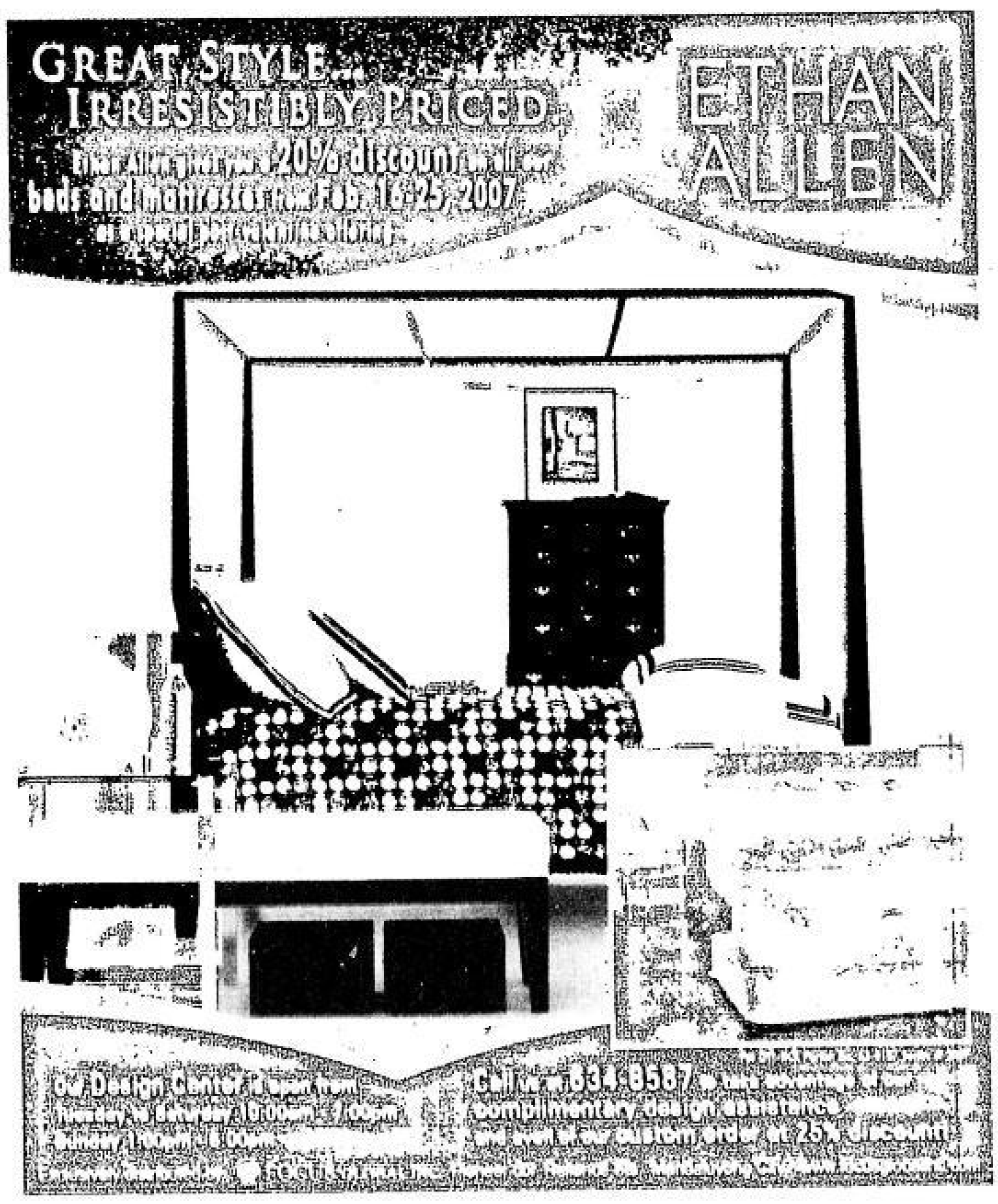
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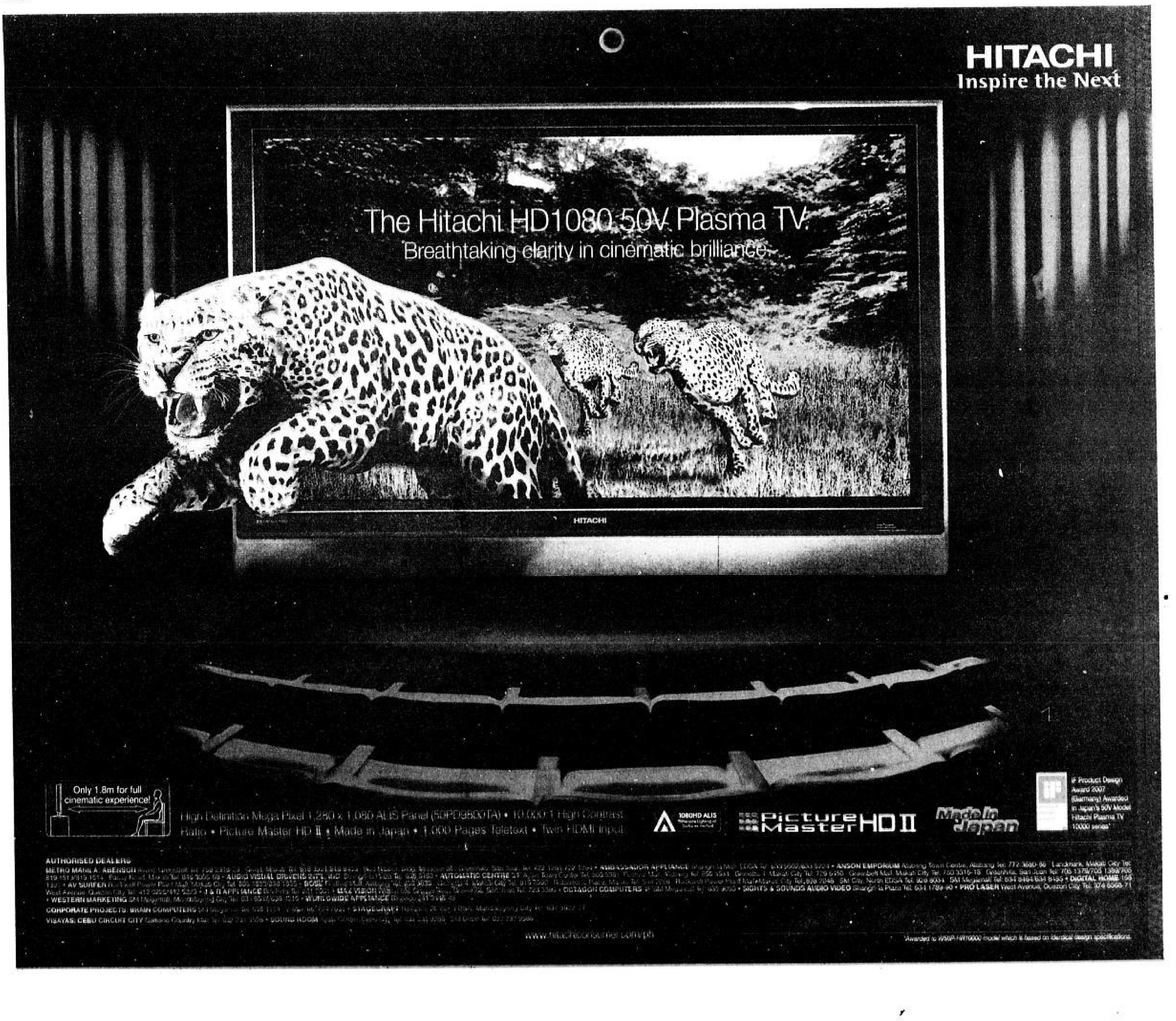
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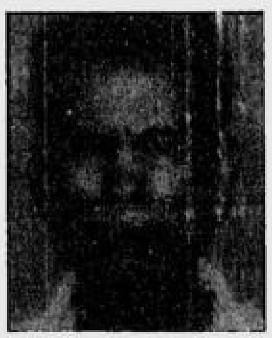
An Appeal to President Arroyo

Stop agrarian violence and killing of farmers! Implement agrarian reform in contentious landholdings!



Pepito Santillan, 60, is the first killed this year (Jan 25, Negros Occidental)

Joseph Matunding, 43, is the latest killed (Jan. 30 in Iloilo)

Eric Cabanit, 53, was slain in April last year in Davao del Norte

Vicente Tejino, 44, was slain in February 2003 in Quezon

Rico Adeva, 39, was gunned to death last April 2006 in Negros Occidental

Madam President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

From 2001 when you assumed power to 2006, 38 farmer-leaders were slain in cold blood. Two more were killed since -- TFM's Pepito Santillan in Negros Occidental on January 25 and UNORKA's Joseph Matunding in Iloilo on January 30. KMBP's Heliolito Abrenica could have been the third had he not survived the bolo-hacking by a goon identified with a big landowner in San Francisco, Quezon. He, however, lost his left hand.

More limbs and lives are likely to be sacrificed unless you act quickly and resolutely. Records of PARRDS indicate that there are 2,342 leaders and organizers whose lives are threatened by goons and security guards of big landowners and plantations as well as others in their service, including policemen, barangay tanods, and members of so-called revolutionary forces.

The farmers have experienced five years of murders, frustrated murders, arson, physical assaults, grave threats, forced evacuations, harassment cases, destruction of properties, and strafing of houses, especially in agrarian reform hotspots like Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Iloilo, Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, Sarangani, Mindoro Occidental, Batangas, Quezon, and Masbate.

No less than the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has attributed the killings and violence to your government's apparent disregard for meaningful implementation of agrarian reform.

Apparently in response, you were quoted on February 6 by a national newspaper as saying:

> *"There is a new paradigm that is being proposed to open new lands for agriculture so that we can give farmers a chance to have their own land and, yet, avoid all this bloodshed that is happening (in the implementation of land reform)."*

Is this "new paradigm" going to be still another attempt to avoid implementing agrarian reform law due to landowner pressure?

The Melo Commission you set up to probe the extra-judicial killings, including those involving peasants as victims, submitted a report to you in December 2006. Why has it not been made public?

As a community of civil society organizations and human rights advocates concerned with the plight of farmers struggling for agrarian reform, we appeal to you, Madam President, to please:

1. **Make public the report of the Melo Commission, especially the results of its investigation of agrarian reform-related killings and violence;**
2. **Prosecute all perpetrators of agrarian-related human rights violations, whether they be private sector goons, police forces, or agents of so-called revolutionary groups; and,**
3. **Implement agrarian reform speedily and fairly especially in contentious landholdings, taking into consideration the rights of the legitimate farmers.**

Signed:

Most. Rev. Antonio J. Ledesma, SJ, Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro **- Fr. Robert Reyes**
Sr. Maluz Mijares, OSA and **Br. Edmundo Fernandez, FSC**, Co-Chairpersons, AMRSP **- Sr. Arnold Ma. Noel**, Sulong CARHRIHL
Fr. Archie Casey SX, Xaverian Missionaries **- Sr Crescencia L. Lucero**, SFIC and TFD

Sen. Wigberto Tanada, PRRM **- Gerardo Bulatao - Christian S. Monsod - Oscar D. Francisco - Clifford Burkley**
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Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Akbayan **- Edicio G. Dela Torre - Karen N. Tanada**, GZO Peace Institute **- Max de Mesa**, PAHRA

Apolonio Pacardo, UNORKA-Pilipinas **- Armando Jarilla**, Task Force Mapalad **- Loreto Caman**, PASAMAKA **- Edgardo Lopez**, KMBP
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ADVT

Comelec tags 7 provinces 'hotspots'

By Nikko Dizon

AT LEAST SEVEN PROVINCES have been identified as "potential areas of concern" during the May polls by the Commission on Elections.

These are Abra and Nueva Ecija in Luzon and five provinces in southern Mindanao, Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez told reporters yesterday.

Jimenez said peace and order concerns were raised in the provinces because of, among other things, the "tight political rivalries" and the "southern Philippine secessionist groups."

While Jimenez did not name the Mindanao provinces, Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason said in a separate interview these were the five provinces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), namely, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Basilan and Lanao del Sur.

Tuason said such areas would no longer be referred to as "election hotspots" but "areas of concern."

The commissioner also made a distinction between "potential areas of concern" and provinces that might be tagged "immediate areas of concern."

"Immediate areas of concern" would be those where "[it is] evident violence will erupt or there will be some sort of violation of peace and order which ... would necessitate military presence or Comelec control," Tuason said.

Jimenez reiterated that only in extreme situations and "absolute necessity" would the Comelec allow military vehicles to be used to transport ballot boxes and election paraphernalia.

"For example, if there are no more civilian vehicles available in an area," he said.

The "necessity" would be determined jointly by the Comelec and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Jimenez said.

But, he stressed, this would be done following the "spirit of the memorandum of agreement" signed by the Comelec and the Department of National Defense to leave the military out of the elections.

Under the MOA, the military would only serve as escorts of the civilian vehicles carrying the ballot boxes and paraphernalia and would maintain a certain distance [from polling places], Jimenez said.

Maxima Radovan; 95

MAXIMA FERNANDEZ Radovan of Alaminos, Pangasinan, died on Wednesday at the age of 95.

She was the wife of Paulino Radovan. Surviving her are her children Filomena and Rodolfo Estrivo, Consuelo and Doming, Rogelio and Nelie and Pat and Gil Enrile, grand children and great grandchildren.

Three of her children—Belen, Marcelo and Aristides—are also deceased.

The body lies at the family home in Alaminos. Burial will be on Sunday, Feb. 18, at noon at the cemetery in Barangay Bued.

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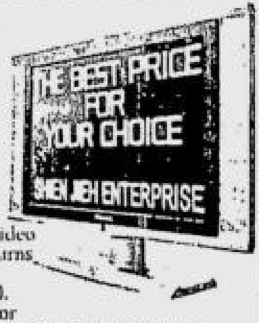

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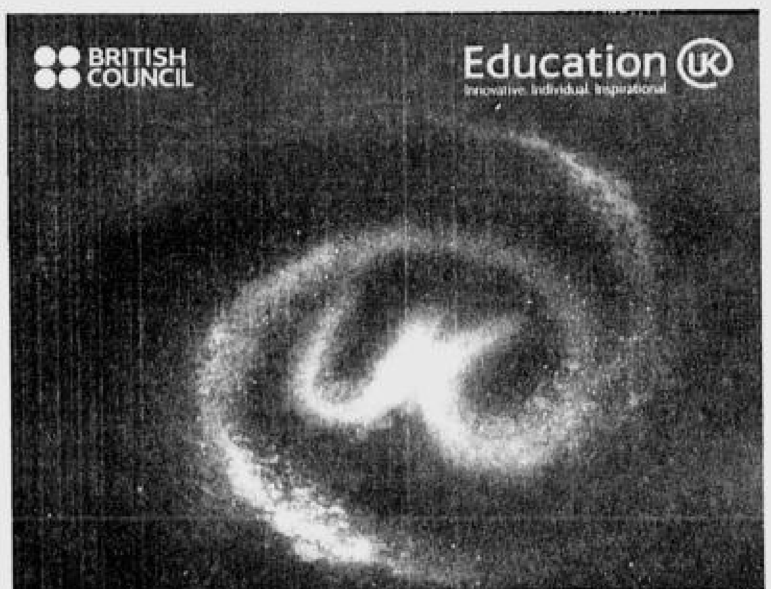

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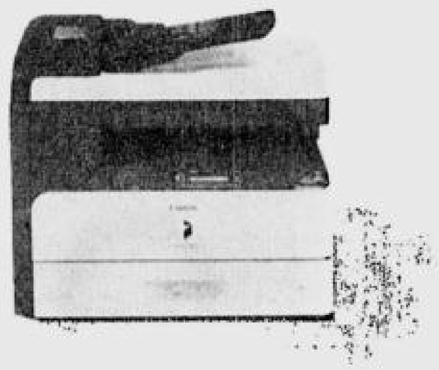

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Comelec tags 7 provinces 'hotspots'

By Nikko Dizon

AT LEAST SEVEN PROVINCES have been identified as "potential areas of concern" during the May polls by the Commission on Elections.

These are Abra and Nueva Ecija in Luzon and five provinces in southern Mindanao, Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez told reporters yesterday.

Jimenez said peace and order concerns were raised in the provinces because of, among other things, the "tight political rivalries" and the "southern Philippine secessionist groups."

While Jimenez did not name the Mindanao provinces, Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason said in a separate interview these were the five provinces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), namely, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Basilan and Lanao del Sur.

Tuason said such areas would no longer be referred to as "election hotspots" but "areas of concern."

The commissioner also made a distinction between "potential areas of concern" and provinces that might be tagged "immediate areas of concern."

"Immediate areas of concern" would be those where "[it is] evident violence will erupt or there will be some sort of violation of peace and order which ... would necessitate military presence or Comelec control," Tuason said.

Jimenez reiterated that only in extreme situations and "absolute necessity" would the Comelec allow military vehicles to be used to transport ballot boxes and election paraphernalia.

"For example, if there are no more civilian vehicles available in an area," he said.

The "necessity" would be determined jointly by the Comelec and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Jimenez said.

But, he stressed, this would be done following the "spirit of the memorandum of agreement" signed by the Comelec and the Department of National Defense to leave the military out of the elections.

Under the MOA, the military would only serve as escorts of the civilian vehicles carrying the ballot boxes and paraphernalia and would maintain a certain distance [from polling places], Jimenez said.

Maxima Radovan; 95

MAXIMA FERNANDEZ Radovan of Alaminos, Pangasinan, died on Wednesday at the age of 95.

She was the wife of Paulino Radovan. Surviving her are her children Filomena and Rodolfo Estrivo, Consuelo and Doming, Rogelio and Nelie and Pat and Gil Enrile, grand children and great grandchildren.

Three of her children—Belen, Marcelo and Aristides—are also deceased.

The body lies at the family home in Alaminos. Burial will be on Sunday, Feb. 18, at noon at the cemetery in Barangay Bued.

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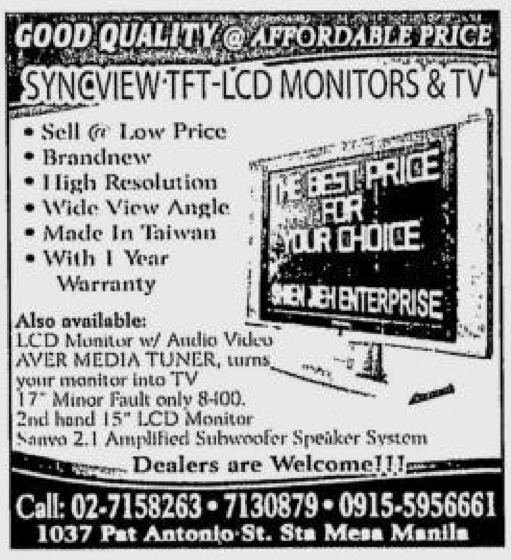
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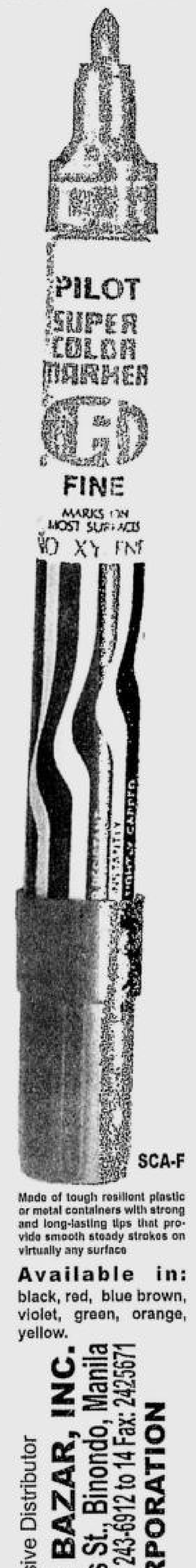
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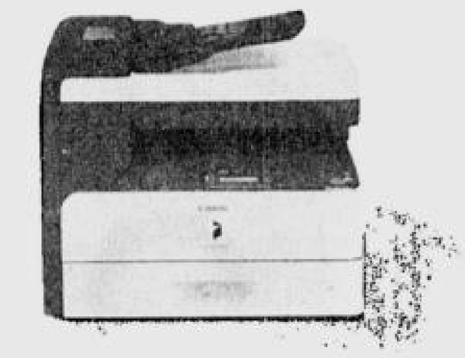
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ROGER MARGALLO

GO, GO, GO: The Grand Coalition now called Genuine Opposition or GO lunch at the StarMall in Las Piñas. From left, JV Ejercito, campaign manager; Koko Pimentel, Sonia Roco, Nikki Coseteng, Manny Villar, who hosted the lunch; Loren Legarda, John Osmeña and Jojo Binay. *(Story on Page A9.)*

UNO 'guest candidates' ...

From page A1

Villar and Pangilinan are running as independent candidates while fellow "Wednesday Group" members, Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto, joined the administration lineup.

"If on their part, they would junk the rest and they do not carry our candidates, then on the ground, on the local level, there might be some repercussions," Tamano told reporters in the Senate.

Until yesterday, Tamano had been saying that the opposition would "actively" campaign for Villar and Pangilinan.

But he said any "junking" would be decided by individual opposition members, because as far as the opposition leadership was concerned, Villar and Pangilinan were "official candidates."

"That will be an individual decision of the candidates. I cannot speak for them, for what their reactions will be," Tamano said.

He said it would be unfair if Villar and Pangilinan campaigned for senatorial candidates of the administration's Team Unity.

"(T)here's something wrong there. Like I said, if that happens there will be repercussions on the local level. We can't control the people," he said.

Villar hosts lunch

Tamano was reacting to reports that Pangilinan had promised Senators Arroyo and Recto his "silent" support.

Villar yesterday kept his promise to join other opposition candidates in the campaign when he hosted lunch for them in a restaurant in a Las Piñas City shopping mall. Villar owns the mall.

He and his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, leased Dencio's Restaurant at Star Mall for the lunch with UNO's senatorial candidates—Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Sonia Roco, Loren Legarda, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, John Osmeña and Nikki Coseteng—and campaign managers San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Villar said he would join some opposition sorties if his own campaign schedule permitted it.

Pangilinan has been noncommittal about joining the sorties of the opposition.

Goal personal to GMA

Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, who is on the United Opposition's executive committee, said he would talk to Pangilinan to thresh out the problem.

Binay said Pangilinan had told him he would join the opposition campaign if he had "free time."

Two UNO senatorial candidates were unfazed by the administration's strategy to field common coalition candidates to challenge reelectionist and new aspirants to the House of Representatives who may support another impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the strategy was an "admission that the singular objective of the administration party is to protect (Ms Arroyo's) hold on power and prevent another impeachment."

"Both (objectives) are personal to her and not even remotely related to what is good for the country," he said.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano lashed out at the administration for allegedly "oversimplifying" the May elections as a battle in preparation for ousting the President through yet another impeachment process.

The first failed impeachment case against Ms Arroyo in 2005 gathered 51 lawmakers against her, but the number went down to 32 when a second case was filed last year.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Kampi president, earlier said the goal was "to defeat half of the 32."

Bad for country

The opposition needs one-third or at least 79 seats in the House to automatically transmit to the Senate a third impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

Cayetano said that even if the administration dominated the House, new impeachment cases could gather support even from its own people.

"There will always be people who will stand up against corruption," he said.

Cayetano said the administration was making it appear that the opposition wanted her out simply because it wanted to replace her. "We want her out because she's bad for the country," he said.

Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay, a member of the administration's senatorial ticket, said the business community and other sectors were shunning the opposition for its "disruptive politics" and "lack of a clear agenda for economic development."

He was reacting to UNO's pronouncement that it didn't have as much money for the campaign as the administration's Team Unity.

Ejercito, campaign manager of UNO, had said the opposition was having financial woes because many would-be contributors feared a backlash from the administration.

"There are contributors but they [give support] discreetly because this is a very vindictive government," Ejercito said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

CAUGHT RED-HANDED: Comelec Chair Ben Abalos reprimands two minors caught in the act of putting up Defensor posters along Xavierville Avenue in Xavierville Village, Quezon City. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Comelec chief witnesses violations of campaign law

By Nikko Dizon

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Abalos saw for himself the violations of the Fair Elections Act being committed by senatorial aspirants, or at least their supporters who put up campaign posters around Metro Manila.

James Arthur Jimenez, Comelec spokesperson, said yesterday that during Abalos' inspection on Wednesday night, he noticed that senatorial candidates Mike Defensor, Manny Villar, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Sonia Roco and Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan had posters in places not designated by the Comelec as common poster areas.

Among the party-list groups, Anak ng Mindanao (Amin), Aksyon Sambayanan (Aksa) and Kasangga were the violators.

"He (Abalos) is appealing to the politicians to keep their supporters in check as he believes these (senatorial aspirants) would not willfully violate the laws," the Comelec spokesperson said.

A number of the candidates' "overenthusiastic" supporters were caught by Abalos himself putting up campaign posters.

The violators were turned over to the police for investigation.

Benefit of the doubt

Asked about the culpability of the candidates, Jimenez said that it would depend on the outcome of the investigation.

"Let's see if someone's going to point (them) out," he said.

"We are giving them (candidates) the benefit of the doubt. The chairman (Abalos) wants to see a greater commitment from everyone in following the law," Jimenez said.

He added that the candidates and their supporters would be given three days to take down their posters to avoid being sanctioned by the Comelec.

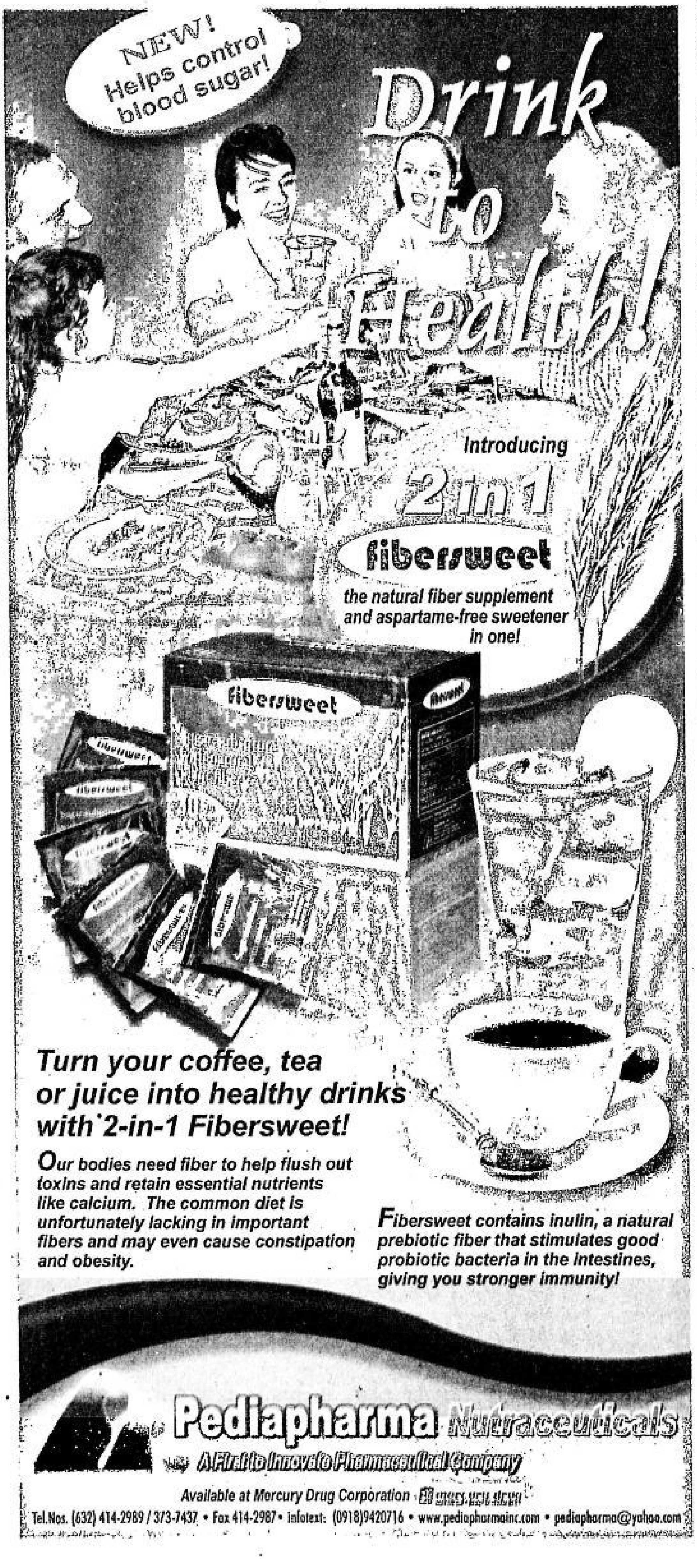
Grounds for disqualification

Violations of the Fair Elections Act could be grounds for disqualification.

Jimenez said the Comelec convoy, accompanied by media, started in Mandaluyong and traversed Edsa up to Quezon Avenue.

It proceeded to España and turned left on Lacson Street, then on to Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, and then to Marikina and back to Katipunan.

It was in Old Balara in Quezon City where Abalos caught the first violators putting up Kasangga posters, Jimenez said.



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He said the projects not only benefit the public, but also enliven the youth through education and sports programs, strengthen the family, promote business, improve the transportation, provide security through police visibility, give livelihood and employment, and ensure the health of the residents.

The mayor believed he was able to make the big changes in Caloocan because of the help and cooperation of the people.

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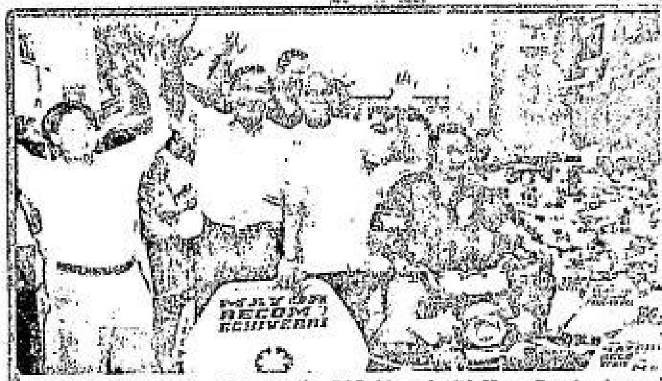

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INFRASTRUCTURE

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Some 1,806 meters of pathwalk and 20,814.00 linear meters of drainage canals were rehabilitated. While 218 lamp posts or streetlights were installed and a concrete bridge was constructed.

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In 2006, 11,808 residents who signed up for the seven job fairs conducted in the city were hired. A total of 26,588 job vacancies were offered during the fairs.

While some 6,000 walk-in applicants or those who asked assistance from LIRO were also able to get a job.

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The City Social Welfare Department, on the other hand, continues to assist distressed residents of the city giving help to at least 61,677 victims of fire, demolition and flooding in the city last year.

Also, some 606 clients were served through the case planning and management program. Of the number, 10 were physically abused women, 16 abandoned and neglected elderly, 17 families in difficult circumstance, and 17 were abandoned and neglected women.

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More than 1,600 families were given medical assistance, transportation assistance, financial assistance, burial assistance, and rescue and protection assistance.

The CSWD also provided help to some 117 solo parents through counseling, referrals, interventions and livelihood programs.

Some 201 residents also benefited from the livelihood programs funded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

While 149,640 kilos of rice were given to 14,694 day care children through the Bigas Para sa mga Mag-aaral ng Day Care program.

And to ensure the health of the students, Mayor Echiverri conducted the "Hot Meal" community based supplemental projects for the 16,784 children in 40 barangays.

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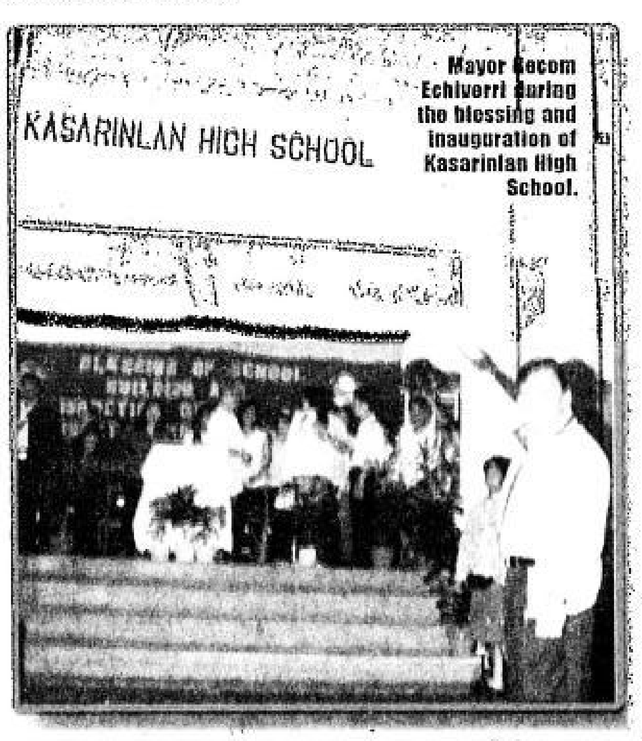

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On the other hand, 580 individuals were rescued from the street through the Sagip-Kalinga operation with the help of non-governmental organizations.

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Echiverri inaugurated several Botika ng Barangay where the residents could buy their medicines in a much cheaper price but with the same potency and quality as the expensive brands.

He also distributed patrol vehicles to 188 barangays of the city.

The mayor also wanted to strengthen family ties in the city, the reason he conducted free matrimonial services or Kasalang Bayan.

Many of those who participated were living together for years and have bore many children but were still not married because of the expense that comes with wedding preparation and the ceremony itself.

"Ang pamilya ang pinakahaligi ng lipunan. Kapag marupok ang haligi, nandiyan ang peligro na gumuho ang buong tahanan. Kaya naman dapat palakasin natin ang haligi, palakasin ang pamilya at magagawa 'yan ng kasal," he explained.

Through the Civil Registry Department, three major Kasalang Bayan were conducted in 2006 where some 2,000 couples exchanged "I dos".

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Based on the records of CRD, from 2004 to 2006, a total of 6,214 couples benefited from the Kasalang Bayan of Mayor Echiverri.

Aside from the Kasalang Bayan, the CRD were also conducting Mobile Registration and Operation Birthright where 5,708 residents benefited last year.

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The city's beautification campaign which involved massive cleanup drives greatly improved the cityscape.

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"Kung wala sila, wala rin tayong trabaho na maibibigay sa ating mga kababayan," he said.

There are 14,000 registered businesses in the city today resulting to a 34.3 percent increase in the revenue collection.

Last June, the city was declared as the Motorbike Capital of the Philippines with the emergence of motorcycle and scooter dealers and distributors along the stretch of 10th avenue and Rizal Avenue extension.

Undeniably, these are the proof of a renewed and increased business confidence in the city.

Because of this, Mayor Echiverri promised to double his efforts in implementing projects that would attract investors to the city such as better roads and transportation facilities for a more convenient movement of their personnel and products.

Mayor Echiverri said his administration would not falter in its efforts to provide the residents better services, programs and projects because this is the only way he can return the trust given to him by his constituents.

"Karapatan ng ating mga kababayan na mabigyan sila ng maayos na serbisyo dahil naniniwala ako na ang isang lugar ay nagiging maunlad kapag maayos ang pangangatawan at pamumuhay ng mga naninirahan dito," the mayor said.

Mayor Recom Echiverri

Advt

45th Cityhood Founding Anniversary (1962-2007)

CALOOCAN CITY

MOVING FROM VISION TO VICTORY

TWO years and a half after the residents gave him the power and authority to lead them, Caloocan City Mayor Enrico "Recom" Echiverri implemented programs and projects that benefited the populace.

Caloocan residents are now reaping the fruits of their trust to the administration with the development and progress that is very evident in the city.

Mayor Echiverri made sure that the policies and programs of the city government were holistic and beneficial to all aspects of life.

He said the projects not only benefit the public, but also enliven the youth through education and sports programs, strengthen the family, promote business, improve the transportation, provide security through police visibility, give livelihood and employment, and ensure the health of the residents.

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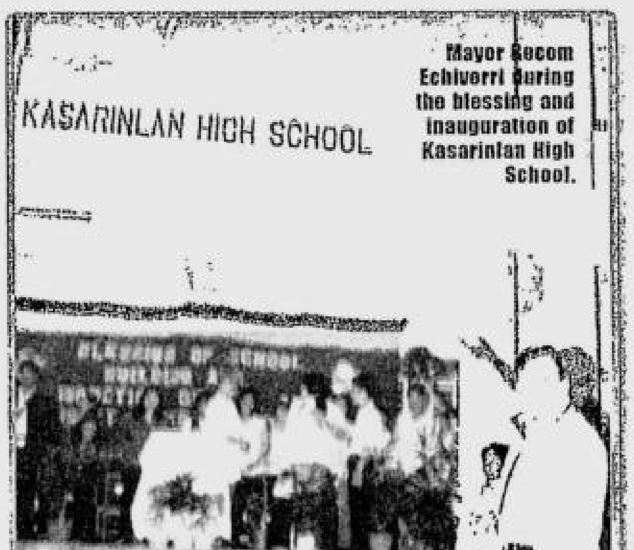

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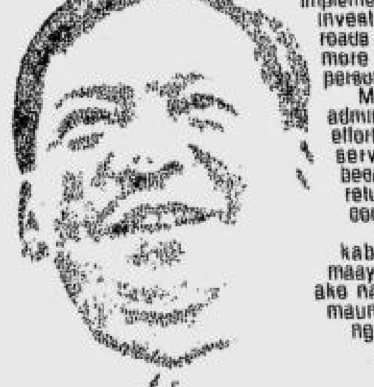
Last June, the city was declared as the Motorbike Capital of the Philippines with the emergence of motorcycle and scooter dealers and distributors along the stretch of 10th avenue and Rizal Avenue extension.

Undeniably, these are the proof of a renewed and increased business confidence in the city.



Because of this, Mayor Echiverri promised to double his efforts in implementing projects that would attract investors to the city such as better roads and transportation facilities for a more convenient movement of their personnel and products.

Mayor Echiverri said his administration would not falter in its efforts to provide the residents better services, programs and projects because this is the only way he can return the trust given to him by his constituents.

"Karapatan ng ating mga kababayan na mabigyan sila ng maayos na serbisyo dahil naniniwala ako na ang isang lugar ay nagiging maunlad kapag maayos ang pangangalawan at pamumuhay ng mga naninirahan dito," the mayor said.

Mayor Recom Echiverri

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OPINION

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Pacman in politics

EDITORIALS

MANNY PACQUIAO MAY FEEL THAT HE'S DOING the people of General Santos City a favor by running for Congress. He's dead wrong. What he's doing is adding to the score card of the millions of Filipinos so disenchanted by politics that they're about to pack up their bags and leave for the moon or any place where there are no Filipino politicos. What he's doing is sheer political opportunism that only aggravates Filipino cynicism about the irredeemability of Philippine politics.

As in the classic, rousing slugfests he has taken part in, Pacman may feel that as a political neophyte, he's entering the political arena as an underdog. At first blush, that may appear so. He's trying to unseat reelectionist Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, a member of the prominent Antonino clan. That clan has ruled a corner of Mindanao for more decades. The dynasty is unabashedly pro-Joseph Estrada, a testament both to their constancy as well as their hubris.

But Pacquiao is not there to unseat a shameless dynasty, but to do the bidding of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who would brook no opposition from her political enemies and who herself has a political dynasty and a wobbly presidency to prop up. She is using Pacman as a pawn, and the boxer is only too willing to oblige.

She's an unlikely coach Freddie Roach to his swinging street-fighter, and together, they appear to be on a campaign to dismantle the Antonino dynasty, personified by Custodio. Pacman and his political trainer may think that they're going to pounce mercilessly on a political evil, but they're dead wrong: they're pulverizing a public already beaten black and blue by *trapos* like them. Pacman may raise and wave his triumphant fist, but he has simply entered the wrong boxing ring.

He said, they said

THE PLOT THICKENS. AFTER PHILIPPINE TOURISM Authority (PTA) General Manager Robert Dean Barbers accused some members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Batangas of attempting to kidnap him and his family, witnesses have filed statements contradicting the accusation, saying that what really happened was a traffic altercation.

Barbers had reported that a car with four men in a Ford Laser blocked the path of his Ford Explorer SUV last Feb. 9 in Bauan, Batangas, but backed off when the incident attracted the attention of a local media man. But in a statement to the San Jose municipal police, witness Armando Asi said it was Barbers' SUV that blocked the path of the Laser which had stopped along the provincial road. Barbers allegedly alighted from his car and approached the driver's side of the black Laser. The driver, whom Asi identified as Niño Virtusio of the Philippine Air Force, also got out and the two men had an altercation. Asi said Barbers poked his gun at Virtusio and punched him. The PTA official then went back to his car and sped off toward Bauan town. Another witness, Pedro Punio, basically corroborated Asi's account.

The statements, if true, disclose a lot. First, there was no kidnapping attempt. Second, what really took place was a traffic altercation between two colossal macho egos that could have been embarrassing, especially for Barbers' family who were riding with him. And third, why was Barbers carrying a gun at a time when the Comelec gun ban is being enforced owing to the election campaign season?

Barbers' statement has some suspicious claims. He says that when his car was blocked by Virtusio's, he was ordered to come out by two men, which he did. He said he pleaded with the suspects to take him and leave his family out of it. He eventually got a chance to get back to his SUV and drive away toward Bauan, where they caught up with him after a chase. But a media man, Ben Aclan, recognized him and intervened, and the men then fled.

It's hard to believe that any kidnapper would give their prey that much of a chance to make a getaway. And Aclan has yet to show the video he claimed to have taken of the incident.

The statements against Barbers' claim should also be taken with a grain of salt. After all, Asi is a council member of the barangay where Virtusio's father is chair. The police and the military have their share of scalawags and rotten eggs, and any statement clearing their members of malfeasance must be taken with caution.

In any case, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon has ordered an investigation and ordered Virtusio and Air Force enlisted man Gerry Mendoza arrested. Will the public finally get to know the true story?

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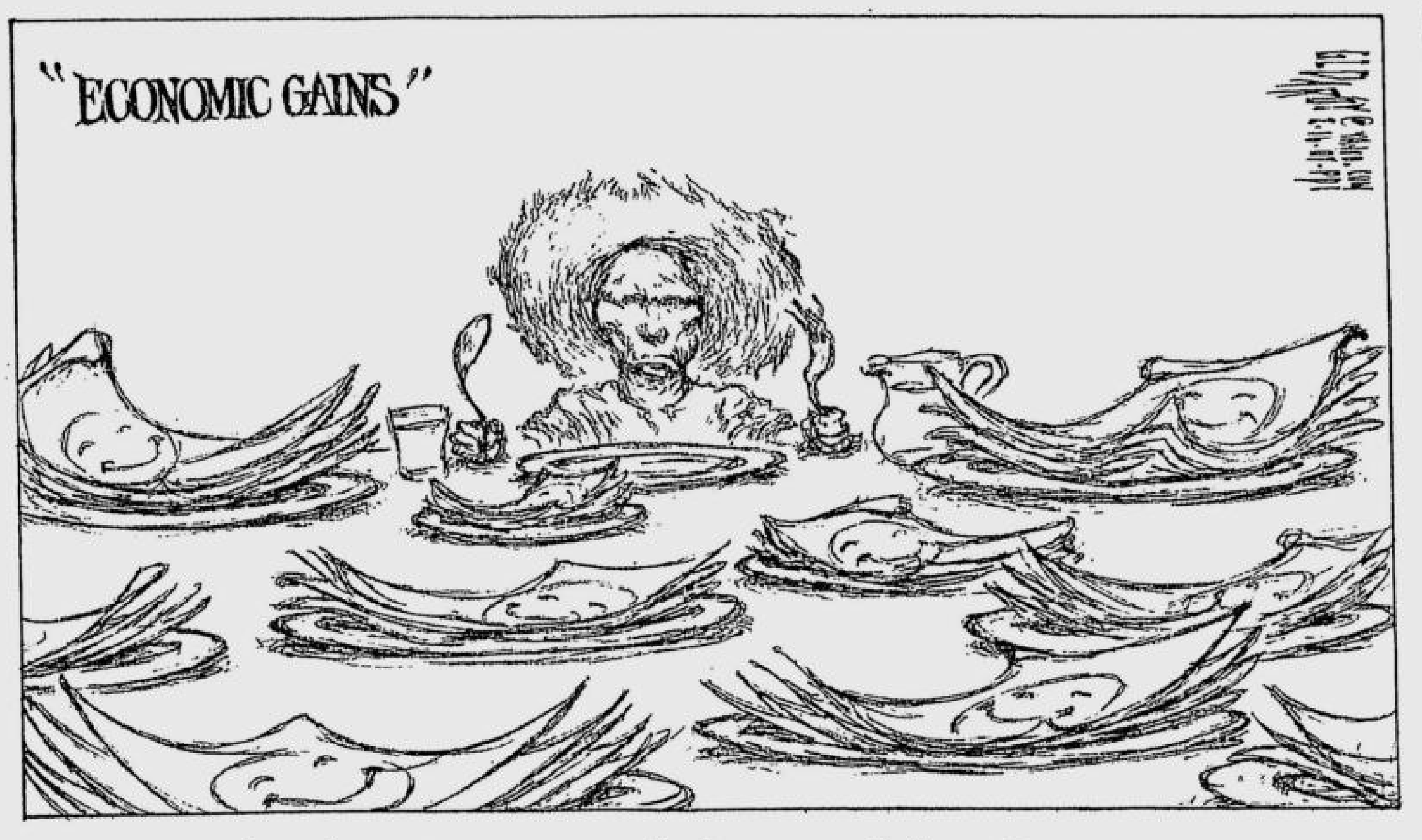


The beginning of the end for Pacman

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THEY DO IT ALL THE TIME. IT SEEMS MOST celebrated prizefighters are destined to suffer the same fate: a quick rise to the top, a few years there, and then the inevitable decline and the wretched end. Name any champion Filipino boxer you can think of, then ponder what happened to him afterwards. Only one, as far as I can remember, didn't end up in poverty and oblivion: Gabriel "Flash" Elorde. And the reason was that his manager was his father-in-law and the rest of the family protected him from the usual opportunists and hangers on who congregate around every champion boxer. The others squandered their wealth as if there was no end to it.

Manny Pacquiao, who, by the way, is not even a champion (he just won two or three well-publicized bouts against Mexican boxers on the way down) does not seem to be another exception. As with the other boxers before him, the sudden celebrity status and the sudden wealth from the purses have gone to his head. After building mansions and buying luxury cars and frequenting cockpits, he has been convinced by opportunists to throw his hat into the political ring by running for congressman of the first district of South Cotabato. No doubt, he believes his popularity can easily propel him to a seat in the House of Representatives.

I know there are many congressmen who don't deserve to be there, but what will Pacquiao do in the House? Getting elected is one thing, but doing what one is supposed to do there is another. The House is not a boxing arena or a cockpit that Pacquiao is familiar with.

What is he going to do there? He cannot challenge congressmen who do not agree with him to a fistfight. The job of congressmen is to make laws, but he doesn't even know how to draft one nor will he understand a bill that is already written and presented to him. Most of the time he wouldn't understand what his colleagues would be talking about. In other words, Pacquiao would be wasting taxpayers' money that would go to his salary and allowances.

Sportswriters, prominent residents of General Santos City and other persons who have his welfare at heart have seen the downward path to politics that he has taken and have raised their alarms. But Pacquiao doesn't hear and see. He is blinded by his celebrity status and he hears only the whispers of the opportunists, foreigners and Filipinos alike. Well, it's his own lookout. There are now people who wish Pacquiao would lose in his next bout and in the elections, if only to open his eyes.

I'm afraid Pacquiao already realizes he is now headed downhill and has only a few bouts left in him. He is weary of the training sessions; he prefers to enjoy his celebrity status. But how can he continue to be a celebrity when he starts losing bouts one after another? By being a politician. Pacquiao is really providing for his future by going into politics.

His big mistake was in choosing his opponent. He is fighting a tiny wisp of a girl, Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, but this is not a boxing ring. This is a different kind of sport, something Pacquiao would find much more complex and complicated. This is a fight for the hearts and minds of the people of South Cotabato where his boxing prowess will not do him any good.

It would be a big blow to his ego when he finds out that in this fight, this girl is much better than he. She has been the representative of the first district of South Cotabato for two terms now and she has performed magnificently, if you will remember the debates in the House. Pacquiao can't possibly do better than she. And her constituents obviously love her.

Darlene is the darling of South Cotabato. Why change her with an egotistic, conceited, swell-headed, self-centered, self-indulgent, self-seeking, narcissistic and solipsistic boxer?

* * *

Another interesting fight is the congressional race in the fourth district of Pangasinan, where Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim is running against Speaker Jose de Venecia. Knowledgeable people from the district say Lim is a very popular leader and that, in contrast, many Pangasinenses are disappointed with JDV. The latter has been Speaker for 12 years now, but there has been very little improvement in Pangasinan comparable to those in other provinces, they say.

It seems that JDV realizes the predicament he is in. According to Lim, the Speaker has been sending emissaries to convince him to withdraw. This has always been the technique of JDV: instead of meeting a challenge head-on, he buys off a potential opponent. That was how he was able to keep the Rainbow Coalition together and keep the speakership for 12 years.

The showdown between him and Lim would have taken place a long time ago had not JDV been able to convince Lim to turn his attentions elsewhere. Lim wanted to run for congressman (against JDV) in 2004, but the latter convinced him to run for mayor of Dagupan instead. Now he's doing it again. But would he be able to fool Lim again?

* * *

There's a new show on ABC 5 every Sunday morning, starting at 10:30 a.m. It is 30-minute cooking show called "Star sa Kusina" hosted by—who else?—veteran news correspondent Twinkle Valdez. Twinkle has worked for different news shows for 18 years. Now she will teach viewers how to cook meals quickly. She promises to be the "fastest cook on the block."

Twinkle will shine as "Star sa Kusina."

Why hide the Melo Commission report?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

MALACAÑANG CREATED THE MELO COMMission to inquire into extrajudicial executions, but won't show the Melo report to the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita declares that President Macapagal-Arroyo supports the UN inquiry "for purposes of transparency, to show them that the [Arroyo] government is doing everything to address [the killings]." But apparently "everything" does not include showing the Melo Report—not to the United Nations, not to the European Union which has expressed its alarm at the unabated killings, and certainly not to the Filipino people.

The Constitution provides for the "right of the people to information on matters of public concern." The Melo Report is certainly "of public concern," yet the Palace has kept it secret from the people it is sworn to serve, all the while proclaiming its fealty to the rule of law and calling upon mutinous soldiers to respect the very Constitution that President Arroyo has sullied time and again. (Recall that the Mayuga Report on military involvement in election cheating remains confidential to this day.)

To the credit of the Palace, it has actually produced a well-scripted excuse. "Why, the Melo Report is not yet complete!" Ermita says. "The Melo Commission could not come up with a comprehensive report because there is no participation—by design, I think—by the leftist organizations."

President Arroyo then asked the commission members to continue with their work even after they had already submitted their fact-finding report. (That should make them *functus officio*, shouldn't it? But apparently the Palace can resort to extralegal CPR when it comes to extrajudicial deaths.)

That the commission members, save one, would all play along confirms, in hindsight, why the bereaved families and comrades boycotted the Melo Commission to start with. Because they did not trust the commission's ability to be independent. Ermita would now hold them hostage. The administration created a fact-finding commission that lacked credibility, provoking a boycott by the bereaved, and now it would withhold the report unless the widows and orphans joined their show. The Palace will make a virtue out of its own folly.

President Arroyo encourages the leftist groups to testify, by asking the justice secretary to offer them his protection. Yes, Virginia, you read that right: she asked Hannibal Lecter to give protection to the members of the Vegetarian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Humans.

What will work, Madame President, is if you appoint a fact-finding commission that the victims can trust. The best proof is the visit by the UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston. The victims' families—they who have spurned the Melo Commission and Task Force Usig of the Philippine National Police—they all showed up in full force to meet with Alston, and have offered their "full participation" in his meetings. (Allow me to disclose that Professor Alston was my faculty adviser for my master's thesis at Harvard Law School.)

Ermita worries that the Melo Report is thus based on testimony mainly by police and military authorities, and it might be misinterpreted if "such a one-sided report will be released to the public."

That simply doesn't wash. One, despite hearing from only one side, namely, the police and the military, the Melo Commission has actually found that the police and military were involved in most of killings, at least according to public statements made by retired Justice Jose Melo. Indeed, he said—and the Palace has not denied—that they held retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and other commanders liable under the principle of command responsibility.

Fret not, Secretary Ermita. If it is one-sided against the one side that testified, just imagine if we heard the testimony of the other side that didn't. The Melo Report might possibly include what the law of evidence calls "admissions against interest," the most loaded kind of proof.

Two, Ermita's problem is now remedied by the willingness of the victims' groups to appear before the UN special rapporteur. In other words, let us make full use of the visit by an international expert to secure the evidence that tainted national bodies cannot.

The *desaparecido* phenomenon (or "salvaging," as we call it locally) and its latest cruel variants have evolved precisely so that governments can plausibly wash their hands, but the World Court and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have repeatedly applied the principle of "attribution" of "state responsibility" so that evil leaders cannot use the law to shield them from justice.

We must ask our President: Has she punished any of the military officials implicated in human rights violations? Has she prosecuted them the way she has run after the coup plotters and rebels? Has she promoted or in any way honored any of these officials? Has she given commendations to them, whether in terms of formal military decorations or by praising them more decorously during, say, a State of the Nation Address?

The pattern of the killings is pretty well set. The victims are marked as leftist sympathizers, then this information is publicized during community meetings (sometimes by burning their effigies), and in a few days, motorcycle riding assassins move in. The military have blamed death squads for the actual killing, but it is they who set up the victims for the kill. If the military keeps on marking the victims, they are at best knowing accomplices of the butchers. Their hands are no less stained with innocent blood.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

The power of patronage

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FIRST CASUALTY OF THE COMPLETION OF the main senatorial tickets was the Wednesday Group in the Senate. The four-member bloc was split down the middle when Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Francis Pangilinan joined the ticket of the United Opposition, and Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto, the administration's Team Unity.

The split is the most significant break in the pattern of the selection of senatorial candidates since 1992, when then Sen. Joseph Estrada ran for vice president. His candidacy threw the Senate wide open for the entry of show-biz and media celebrities. The second departure from tradition had both camps excluding such celebrities from their tickets, shutting the Senate doors to these types of political predators. (The explanation for this requires a separate article.)

Villar, Pangilinan, Arroyo and Recto have since been contorting themselves with rationalizations on their decision to break ranks and join opposing alignments, which they seem embarrassed to be identified with. They have justified their decision by saying they joined the tickets as "independent-minded" individuals intent on keeping the Senate independent of the executive and as a counter-foil to presidential abuse of power.

Independence, as a mantra, sounds good. But all these explanations raise questions over how far their independence can be reconciled with the less than impeccable credentials of either the administration or the opposition and how far the others in their respective tickets would tolerate their idiosyncratic tendencies. In plain words, they have served notice that they are not team players and that they will play by their own rules.

Although Villar and Pangilinan have accepted invitations to be "guest candidates" on the opposition ticket, they have indicated that they will be different. Villar has said he would go solo on the campaign trail and not join their team's sorties. He said he joined the alliance without strings attached. He said he didn't have to join the sorties because the style of campaign is different from that of previous campaigns. "It's more media-oriented now," he explained. "Rallies are very inefficient, most people are bused. I'd rather visit a Jollibee or McDonald's, a mall or public market, and shake people's hands and win more votes."

Villar has not been candid about why he cast his lot with the opposition, although he distances himself from its ticket.

Pangilinan said he was surprised by his inclusion in the opposition ticket, although some groups opposed it. He said the opposition would understand that he wished to keep his independence, and was "ready to work with the administration or the opposition on a case-to-case basis."

Pangilinan is so full of himself. It's a good question to ask, whether their inclusion in the opposition ticket adds *gravitas*, whether the opposition badly needs them, or whether their chances are enhanced by the ticket. They have invited criticism for opportunism, and they risk being dumped by resentful colleagues and losing the election for straddling the fence and confusing voters on where they stand.

The other half of the Wednesday Group, Arroyo and Recto, didn't have to go through convoluted explanations. "In a crisis, one must take a stand," they said in a more straightforward and less self-righteous statement. "We ran for the Senate and won on the Arroyo administration slate. Nothing that has happened since gives us reason not to do the same in our re-election bid." They added that the country would be better off allowing President Macapagal-Arroyo to serve out her term, unless her opponents could offer a better alternative to impeaching her.

Arroyo ran as an independent in 2001 and Recto as a member of the Nacionalista Party. Villar and Pangilinan ran as Arroyo allies, but the latter, a member of the Liberal Party-wing of Sen. Franklin Drilon, joined the demand for the resignation of Ms Arroyo in 2005. Villar's NP is too small to be of any consequence to the opposition campaign in building a coalition machine.

Whether or not the opposition ticket is a powerhouse without Villar and Pangilinan is unclear. However, the campaign is starting to see a re-run of the administration's strategy in the 2004 presidential elections. That year, it ran a campaign on the back of a machine with an extensive grassroots network to counter the popularity of actor Fernando Poe Jr. This year's elections are a referendum on the record of the administration and on political legitimacy. The elections are also a test of the critical role of the machine. Candidates who put themselves above the machine and who emphasize their independence in egocentric solo performances undermine their tickets.

Team Unity has avoided the "star" system, having fewer stars in its lineup than the opposition alliance. Both teams have not drafted show-biz celebrities. In building the 2007 machine, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, chair of the President's previously minor party Kampi, claims that the party's membership has grown to 55 congressmen, seven governors, 15 vice governors and 547 mayors. It is likely to grow bigger until May. That's where the gravy is.

The rapid expansion of Kampi during Ms Arroyo's presidency illustrates the power of presidential patronage. It should not be a surprise. It serves notice that the administration would swamp the grass roots with patronage.

The Cardinal writes the President

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S NOT AS IF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT is ignorant of the presence of genetically-engineered rice in this country. Officials of the National Food Authority (NFA), the Bureau of Plant Protection and the Department of Agriculture and even President Macapagal-Arroyo herself have been informed about the presence of a brand of genetically engineered rice from the United States in this country. In fact, the environmental group Greenpeace has charged NFA officials with negligence and demanded that the agency explain how Purefeeds, the rice importer and distributor, was allowed to import GE rice and have it sold in big supermarkets. Greenpeace also demands that the bags of "Uncle Sam Texas Long Grain Rice" be removed immediately from supermarket shelves.

As for the President, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales wrote her last week (copy furnished Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap) about the presence of the GE rice in "major grocery stores."

"As a Church institution, we have a moral obligation to protect the interest of God's people and their inherent right to safe food and healthy environment," Rosales, a staunch champion of environmental causes, wrote the President. "Independent and environmentally concerned local and international scientists already warned that genetically modified crops and food products could be very harmful to the environment and to human beings. (The) European Union (has) opposed and barred the entry of LL GE Rice 601."

The cardinal went on to request the President to "order the recall and stop the sale of all US rice contaminated with LL601 GE rice together with 'Uncle Sam Texas Long Grain Rice' from all markets and grocery stores." His argument was that it was his duty to "strongly oppose any experiment or attempt to use genetically engineered food that is not safe or good (for) the environment."

* * *

ENCLOSED with the cardinal's letter was a petition from the Archdiocese of Manila Ecology Desk, endorsed by over 2,000 "concerned citizens," regarding the same issue.

Fr. Benito Tuazon, who heads the desk, said that American media recently reported that GM variety LLRice 601, developed by Bayer Crop Science (which was mentioned in previous columns) "has been found in rice-growing regions in southern United States such as Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. The said US rice contaminated by a genetically modified variety (was) not approved for commercial release or for importation in the Philippines. Yet, the said rice is now in the market especially in the major grocery stores of the country."

Tuazon said that his office (and the thousands of signatories who added their names to the petition) "are gravely concerned about this contamination especially because of the PL 480 Agreement recently signed by the Philippine government with the US government, which includes the importation of 69,000 metric tons of rice from the US as a loan. How can you assure that the rice supply (will) be kept free from contamination by the long-grain variety from the United States?"

* * *

WRITING as "taxpayers," the petitioners demanded that:

- The Philippine government impose a moratorium on the importation of rice from the United States especially under the PL 480 agreement.
- The Department of Agriculture require a mandatory testing of all imported rice coming from the US to determine if these are genetically modified or not.
- The Department of Agriculture should urgently stop the propagation of genetically-modified products in our farms and market, but instead aggressively promote and support the Philippine indigenous system of farming as a way of fulfilling the obligation of taking precautionary action.
- Certify as urgent the bill calling for the mandatory labeling of all imported, processed food and agricultural products entering and manufactured in our country.

* * *

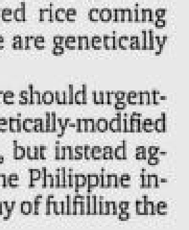
"THE GOVERNMENT'S task is to ensure that the Filipino people not only have enough food supply but (also) safe, nutritious food and contamination-free agricultural products," Tuazon reminds. "Our government, we believe, is bound by the United Nations Environment Program and Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration that says: 'In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by states according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.' Embedded within the Precautionary Principle is the idea that protection of human health and the environment is taken in advance, not after the potential damage has occurred."

As I wrote earlier in this space, people who bought Uncle Sam Texas Long Grain Rice, cooked and ate it have already ingested GE rice, and all the genetically modified organisms that went along with those pearly white grains. They certainly had the right to know that the rice they were buying had undergone (or had been contaminated by) genetic engineering, so they could properly assess the risks. But as scientific authorities in Europe and elsewhere in Asia refuse to guarantee the safety of GE rice, government authorities are at least obligated to ensure that the public is protected from inadvertently ingesting GE foods, through import bans or controls, testing and proper labeling.

In this political campaign season, candidates will be bringing to our attention countless issues that they either championed or are anchoring their advocacies on. I'd give my vote to the first candidate who raises his or her voice against GE rice in our midst.

'Mestizo art'

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

TO IMPROVE MY BROKEN SPANISH, I ACCEPTed an invitation to a wonderful, candle-lit, champagne-laced Valentine's dinner with three ladies who described themselves individually as: a *viuda*, a *divorciada* and, last but not least, a *desgraciada*. It was a fitting way to cap a busy day that included giving a crash course on Philippine history to President S. R. Nathan of Singapore, who was in Manila for a state visit.

Nathan's visit coincided with the opening of six exhibitions in the Ayala Museum on the theme "Chinese Diaspora." With Chinese New Year just around the corner, the exhibition of Peranakan (Chinese-influenced art from Singapore) couldn't have opened on a more auspicious week.

Last year, the Ayala Museum mounted a show of Philippine paintings, loaned from the Singapore Art Museum, which surprised many people with the quality of the pieces. Unknown to many is that Singapore has been quietly moving to become the center of culture and the arts in the region by acquiring art from neighboring countries and inviting artists over for residencies. For instance, the Singapore Tyler Print Institute has hosted the late Pacita Abad and Ben Cabrera, before the latter was elevated to National Artist last year. When I visited the Singapore National Library, I was surprised to find a good Filipiniana collection, that included almost all my books. I have also been informed that Singapore now maintains a film archive that has Philippine films, including all of Mike de Leon's sterling works. This year, as a result of a memorandum of understanding between the Singapore National Heritage Board and the Ayala Museum, an exhibition of Peranakan art is here to show Filipinos the Chinese influence on Singaporean life and culture.

Naturally, the Ayala Museum set up counterpart exhibits on the Chinese influence in Philippine art. When you enter the hall devoted to the Singapore Peranakan show, you will come across a piece of furniture known in collectors' circles as "Demonyo" (Devil), because of the distinctive lion masks on the legs of the table that Filipinos bred on Roman Catholic iconography mistook for devils. Actually this superb 18th-century example in Philippine hardwood is our version of the Chinese altar. If you examine the legs of the table, you will see the lion-masks with mouths agape and the tongues rolling down to form the legs of the table that end with a claw holding a ball. In one piece of furniture, one can see the cultural encounter between China and the Philippines.

"Tsinoy" is a recently coined word, the fusion of the once-derogatory "Intsik" (Chinese) and the colloquial "Pinoy"(Filipino). In an earlier time, in Spanish Philippines, the word "*mestizo*" usually referred to a person of mixed Filipino and Chinese ancestry, and the same can also be said of the intercultural mix in Philippine art.

Archeological evidence shows that China has been in contact with the Philippines for over a thousand years. This alone should make us realize that long before the Philippines came under Spain, England, the United States and Japan, our oldest friend was China. In a fine selection and chronological arrangement by Rita Tan from the Roberto Villanueva collection of Chinese and Southeast Asian ceramics, mostly from the Yuan and Ming dynasties, excavated from the Philippines, we see that China and the Chinese were in the Philippines centuries before Magellan stumbled into the archipelago, and long before the archipelago received its present name, Filipinas, after encounter with the West in the 16th century.

There are so many ceramics on display that one tends to overlook jarlets from the Yuan period, which are quite timely as we face elections because these 14th-century artifacts resemble the *balimbing*. Known in collectors' circles as "balimbing jarlets," they come in four types: plain white or *ching-pai*, iron-spotted, quickly painted with flowers in blue and white, or underglazed red.

These jarlets have not been found in China, and most of these have been excavated in the Philippines and some parts of Indonesia. This suggests that they were made for export, and specifically for the Philippine market.

What were they used for? What did they contain before they were interred with the dead as grave furniture? We may never know, but again these balimbing jarlets prove our long trade and cultural relations with China.

While distinct and clearly recognizable, China and the Chinese integrated so well into Philippine life and culture that some Chinese art forms have simply been classified under the general label "colonial art." The work of the 19th-century painter Damian Domingo (some pieces exhibited for the first time) is Western in form and content, further obscuring Domingo's Chinese origins.

The exhibition can be seen and enjoyed on the surface as objets d'art: religious carvings in ivory, gold jewelry, silver work, furniture and paintings, but I would think that the Philippine pieces on display, when seen together with the Singapore Peranakan pieces, highlight similarities in form and cultural influences. These objects, more importantly, invite us to rediscover Chinese influences in Philippine colonial art that we often overlook.

***

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Pig year

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

EMBLAZONED ON A BRIGHT RED PIECE OF CLOTH, THE Chinese words seemed almost outrageous: "May your pig activities be successful."

But I suspected the words were intended to mean something propitious. When I asked my father, he confirmed that it was another one of those play on words that the Chinese are so fond of. The Putonghua (Mandarin) word for pig is read as "*zhu*," which has a homonym, a word with a similar sound, that means "all." So "pig activities" actually meant "all activities," a kind of generic wish-you-well greeting for the new lunar year, which starts on Feb. 18. This new year, in the Chinese animal zodiac, belongs to the pig, a much-loved animal in our part of the world, although for reasons that don't quite coincide with Valentine's.

Prestige animal

Genetic studies indicate that pigs were domesticated independently in at least five areas: Central Europe, Italy, Northern India, mainland Southeast Asia and maybe even islands in Southeast Asia (that's us). Their domestication came about as people began to settle down to farm, probably not wanting anymore to go off hunting for wild pigs.

Today, in China, mainland Southeast Asia and much of the Western Pacific, the pig is a prestige animal, people's status and wealth indicated by the number of pigs they have. It is sacrificed in religious rituals, used for bride price (I can imagine women boasting about how many pigs they were worth) and, most importantly, consumed in communal feasts and celebrations, with various ethnic groups coming up with their own version of *lechon*. Some say the secret to Chinese cooking is its use of pork fat, no matter what the dish is and that might even include so-called vegetarian dishes.

When the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines, they found the indios already addicted to pork. The Jesuit Ignacio Francisco Alcina, writing in 1668 about the Visayas, had this observations on the local *puercos* (swine): "...there are many, of great varieties, some better than others and of finer qualities than those in Spain... While in Spain the mutton is served as fresh meat and is sold and slaughtered without distinction, for every class of people and it is used by them and even the infirm who are unable to buy hens."

The Visayans ate wild and domestic pigs, as well as a *mestizo* variety they called the "*bayong*" which, Alcina said, was "better than either of the wild ones or the domestic."

One domesticated variety was called "Ilocos," which he believed might be the largest pig not only on the islands but "perhaps in all the rest of the world."

The domesticated pigs were said to be very fertile, bearing litters twice a year (some of them "three times in 13 months," according to Alcina). A curious bit of information that might interest veterinarians: Alcina said that the female runts that were smaller than their siblings were actually prized and given special care because they tended to be more fertile than the regular sized littermates.

The Filipino craving for pork has grown through the centuries, as it has in much of Southeast Asia. Even the poorest families will find ways to occasionally include a few pieces of pork in a meal, and when money is available, it will go quickly into *lechon*.

It's not just in Asia and the Pacific where the pig figures prominently as food and, by extension, as a symbol of affluence, if not profligacy. English has expressions like "bringing home the bacon" and the infamous "pork barrel," which we Filipinos know only too well.

Profane

The appetite for pork is not universal. The book of Leviticus prohibits pork, seeing pigs as "unnatural" because they are cloven-footed like cows and goats, and yet do not "chew the cud" (in simpler words, eat grass). Muslims and more orthodox Jews still prohibit pork, as do some Christian sects like the Seventh Day Adventists.

In our part of the world, we have the paradox of populations divided by pork: pig-crazy Christian Filipinos living side by side with Muslim Filipinos who find pork disgusting. South of the Philippines is Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, where pork is *haram* (forbidden) for most of the population, but relished by non-Muslim Indonesians, especially the Chinese.

So offensive is the pig to Muslims that the Chinese government recently banned "Year of the Pig" advertisements to avoid offending the increasingly restive Chinese Muslims.

The prohibition on pork is usually explained as avoiding the "dirty" pig, but anthropologists have another explanation: the pig, in the arid environment of the Middle East, competed with humans for precious water and grains, making it less ideal as a food animal compared to goats and sheep, which could live on grass and on little water.

In our part of the world, pigs have been easy to raise since we have abundant access to water. And before they began to be raised in piggeries in closed pens, our pigs were quite self-sufficient, foraging on their own for root crops and eating food left-overs from humans.

Pet pigs

Pigs used to be slaughtered only on special occasions. These days, pork is consumed almost every day in various forms: bacon for breakfast, *chicharon* for *merienda*, *liempo* for dinner, churning up cholesterol levels and contributing to cardiovascular diseases.

The hog industry has been trying to breed pigs that are leaner, but I don't know how far they'll get. They probably don't have to worry yet, given that the Chinese, Filipinos and other Southeast Asians aren't about to give up pork yet.

But there may be more reasons than health to give up pork. The "Babe" films have helped to project pigs as quite endearing and intelligent. I still remember that back in vet school, one of our professors, Dr. Salvador Escudero III (yes, the father of the fighting Chiz Escudero), telling our class pigs could be toilet-trained.

Again, Alcina's 17th-century historical account is intriguing in its description of what sounds like a pet pig: "The natives call these *jubo* and they are accustomed to tame them so well that they sleep by the sides of their beds, and almost eat with them from the same plate." Alcina says he had one such pig which "walked among us like a little dog. They are much more clean, even though pigs, than are the dogs."

I've wondered if this *jubo* might have been a variety of the potbelly pig, which has a growing number of fans in different countries, including the Philippines. The potbelly pig actually originated in Southeast Asia, most probably Vietnam. It's now raised in farms in the United States and Canada and sold as pet. You can see them at the Manila Zoo in a special section for kids.

There's still time to make another new year's resolution. We might want to join the call of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to put an end to the slaughter of pigs. I'd go further and say let's reinvent the pig and put it through a second domestication—this time to turn them into pets.

Antiterror law to put servant-pastors in greater danger

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR AND his wife Cynthia, a member of the House of Representatives, were there when the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) paid tribute to Rev. Edison Lapuz, a conference minister of the UCCP. A religious activist, Lapuz was one of the victims of extrajudicial killings in Leyte when Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan was assigned in Eastern Visayas. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga was also there as speaker and he talked about the face of state terrorism.

Not long after that gathering, a brother of an associate of Salonga, Noli Capulong, a green activist and Bayan Muna leader, also of the UCCP, suffered the same fate as Lapuz's. This was before and after Pastor Joel Baclao, Reverends Raul Domingo, Andy Pawican and Jemias Tinambacan were also felled by assassins. Reverends Billy Austin of Ilocos Norte and Malou Tinambacan were similarly hit but miraculously survived. Reverends Betty and Virgilio Perido are to this day—as their military "visitors" so warned— "dead persons walking."

All of them are, or used to be, UCCP church workers deeply engaged in human rights work and in various ministries for peace, social justice and the environment. Their activities threatened no one but a government that views standing for the rights of the poor and marginalized as a form of "terrorism." The UCCP, for its uncompromising stance as a church against authoritarian dispensations, has been, several times in the past, maliciously lumped with political organizations marked by the government as "enemies of the state." The consequence of this malevolent thinking has been tragic.

Today, a significant number of those being summarily killed by death squads are Protestant church workers. With the Antiterror Bill now close to becoming a law, there is every reason for the UCCP and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (a conciliar body of Protestant churches long framed as a dissident voice by almost every government since Marcos) to be alarmed. The signing of this bill into a law is the very signal the death squads are waiting; it will heighten their lust for blood and further inspire them to intensify their bloody campaign against the servant-pastors of the poor.

—REV. FERDINAND ANNO,
Theology and Religious Studies,
The University of Leeds,
LS2 9JT West Yorkshire, UK

Meralco not major cause of high production cost

THIS REFERS TO THE COLUMN OF CONRADO Banal III titled "From cause to cost." (INQUIRER, 2/1/07) He said some government officials apparently believe that Meralco is a major cause of the high cost of manufacturing. We disagree with this assumption.

In fact, the 8.65-centavo adjustment granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission to Meralco in June 2003 was Meralco's first rate adjustment since 1994. This adjustment, when compared to the increases in the prices of other products and services, was actually a very moderate increase.

Prices of fuel products like LPG, diesel and fuel oil, for example, increased by an average of 27 percent from February 2002 to February 2003. The rate of a water concessionaire, on the other hand, increased by as much as 42.8 percent over the same period.

However, Meralco's residential, commercial, industrial and other rates even decreased by 6.3 percent over the same period. So how can it be said that Meralco accounts for the high cost of manufacturing, when the last time it was given a rate increase was almost four years ago?

If there had been increases in the price of electricity since Meralco's last approved rate adjustment, those have been mainly due to the movements in the price of generation and the imposition of the value added tax, from which Meralco does not earn a single centavo. Generation charge is for the cost of power generated and sold to Meralco by our suppliers. Factors that contribute to changes in the cost of generation are the cost of fuel in the world market and the peso-dollar exchange rate.

A look at the breakdown of the electricity bill would show that only about 14 percent of what consumers pay for their electricity actually accrues to Meralco. This means, for every P1 paid, the amount of 86 centavos goes to the power generators, TransCo, the government and other entities; and only around 14 centavos goes to Meralco for distributing electricity.

Meanwhile, Meralco's move to expand the scope of the customer choice program (CCP) to those that meet a demand of at least 750 kilowatts is a step forward in achieving a positive environment in the electric industry. By giving our customers the freedom to choose between Meralco's blended supply (power sourced from both the Napocor and the IPPs) and power that is purely obtained from Napocor, we have actually initiated the groundwork for the implementation of open access. This, we believe, will eventually help to bring down electricity rates.

The process of laying the foundations for wider competition has to be taken one step at a time, though, following a schedule set by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira). Meralco has in fact been long studying its options under Epira on how to lower electricity costs in response to the clamor for lower electricity rates.

—ELPI O. CUNA. JR,
vice president and director,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Pasig City

Why Filipinos excel in foreign lands

WE LEARN THROUGH THE MEDIA THAT many Filipinos excel in their chosen fields of endeavor in foreign countries. This is because they are in environments where justice, fairness and equality reign. Not only that, the governments of their host countries provide them a lot of opportunities, protection and support.

Nothing of this sort here in the Philippines where the name of the game is injustice and inequality: rampant graft and corruption in government, police and military involvement in criminal activities, iniquitous taxation, useless legislation, movie stars in Congress, promoting instead of firing public officials involved in irregularities, etc.

What is wrong with our country is emphasized by a driver who faithfully follows the traffic rules and regulations inside the Subic Free Port, but once he gets out of its premises, behaves on the road like he is in a jungle, bound by no laws.

—ROMY PIOCOS,
rpiocos@yahoo.com

We are the alternatives

WHEN IT COMES TO POLITICS, THE GOVernment PR machine resonates with the conclusion that the Filipinos are increasingly disillusioned, cynical, fatigued. Its call: leave the governing to politicians.

Its prognosis may be partly correct, but its prescription is entirely self-serving and wrong. As it becomes increasingly difficult to discern our state of affairs, it makes more sense to unravel some of the myths that are meant to perpetuate the lie of the pretender to the throne, and further confuse and polarize the Filipinos, especially during the elections in May.

First, the reality: We remain a democracy—for now. We have to fight to keep it alive, otherwise we will wake up one day to find our hard-earned freedom taken away from us. All it takes for evil to succeed is for us to do nothing. All it takes for evil to succeed is for us to sin by silence when we should protest. Aside from making cowards of us, silence allows evil to toy with us in every possible way.

The style is familiar: Test the waters or sneak a poisonous idea in the dead of night. See how the "stupid masses" react, or remain clueless. Then turn the sinister idea into a law or keep it for another day. Cases in point: the junking of the impeachment complaints, the dance with Cha-cha, terrorism by the executive (e.g., EO 464 and libel suits) and executions (i.e., killing the messengers).

Let us stop seeking that perfect hero or so-called alternative as if we're stuck in some fairy tale where we can leave it to the hero to rid the castle of the evil witch and her ilk. Heroism burns inside everyone of us. We are the alternative. It is we, the people, versus a dictatorship which would make us powerless. Our votes and our voices to spread the word are the true powers of democracy. Let us use them while we still can.

We do not fight the evil liar, thief and murderer by asking a saint to run the government. We are the government, and again, this is not a fairy tale. It's ugly enough that we have allowed evil thus far.

Let us start with something easy first: Get rid of the evil. The rest will follow.

INQUIRER.NET VOICES

Vigilance, people power and democracy are alive in a nation proud of its race, freed from hunger, unemployment and landlessness, sheltered and secure, and in a people flourishing with a colorful past, a progressive present and a bright future. Do we really want to lose all that to an iron hand? Again, our votes and our voices to spread the word are the true powers of democracy.—**Dennis Torrecampo, Virginia, USA (via e-mail)**

* * *

I used to defend GMA on almost anything, but her "Unity" ticket makes me quiver in fear and disgust because she is sending a wrong signal to our youth. Imagine, the "dancing lady" Tessie Aquino-Oreta and the comedian Tito Sotto are in it!

What does it mean to our youth? It means all you have to do to be elected is to make noise that will ensure name recall. Forget about the good of the country; just make sure you are in the headlines—whether for doing good or something disgusting.

What does it mean to us overseas Filipino workers? It means our dream of going home and having a decent life in the Philippines is forever gone.—**Nes Baricante, Hong Kong (via e-mail)**

* * *

I am no longer amazed by some people whose only motive is to make money in movies and politics. Most of the blame is not on those elected to office but on people who know them only from television or the movies and elect them. What a pity.

Politicians are actors and actors are politicians, and the Philippines is a Hollywood country that lives life in dreams. Even the media are deceptive in giving the truth picture of this poor nation. We are an intelligent people that do poorly in life.

My country, my home is now a deceived nation.—**Jerry Balto, Arizona, USA (via e-mail)**

PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

PANA
Foundation

PANA STATEMENT ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) is the biggest and oldest non-stock, non-profit organization that unites the users of advertising, belonging to every major industry in the country. Composed of more than 300 member companies, PANA recognizes and fulfills its role and leadership in the advertising industry as a self-regulatory body that is committed to the promotion of "Truth in Advertising".

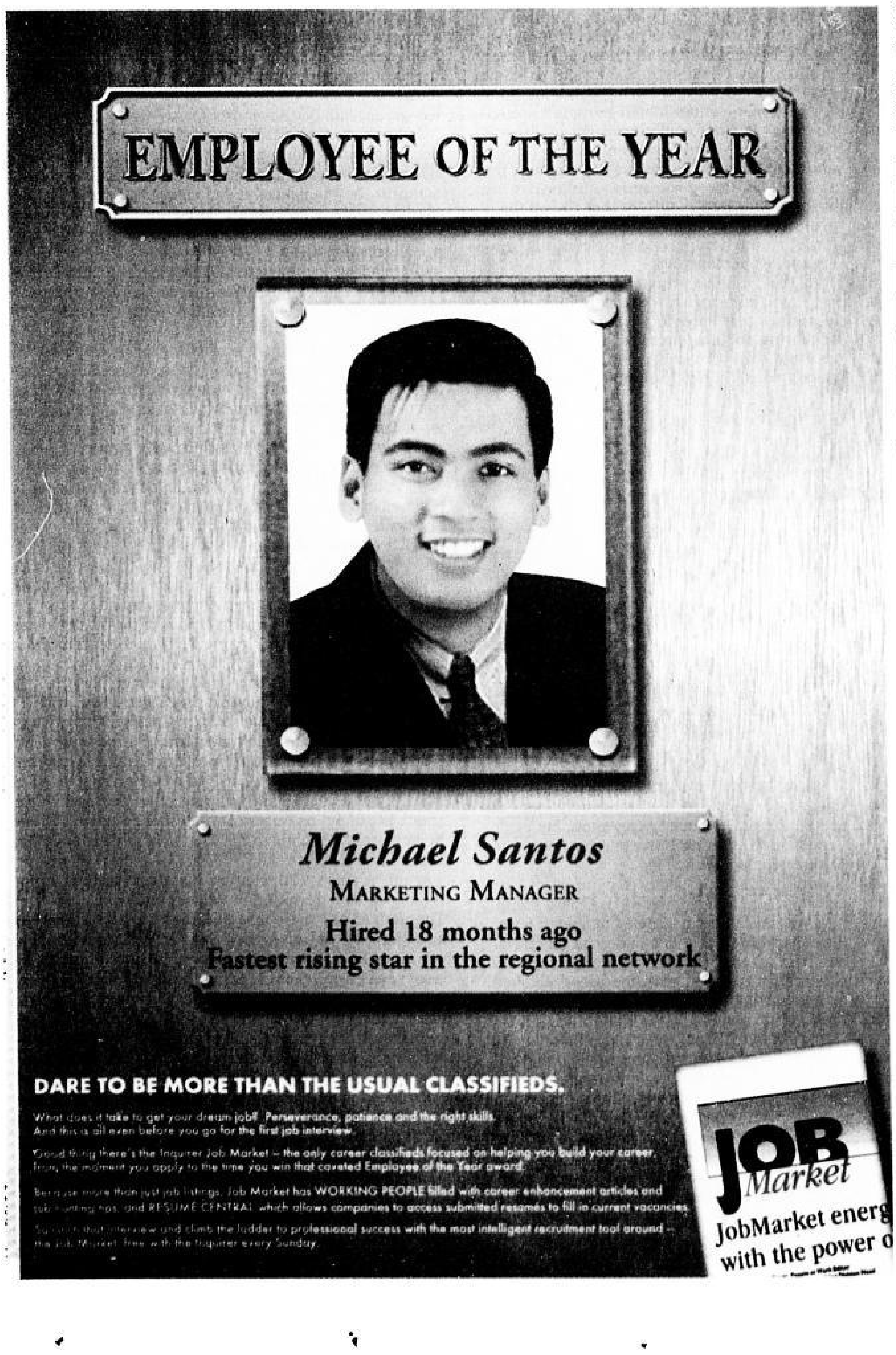
In 1980, PANA established its very own foundation to serve as its advocacy and industry relations arm. The PANA Foundation (PANAF) aims to have a society that is aware of, involved, and empowered in tackling issues relevant to its well being with regard to the advertising industry, and to respond and immediately react to national issues affecting consumers and the general public.

In line with the upcoming May elections for key government posts at national and local levels, both PANA and PANA Foundation, along with majority of the voters, would like to advocate the following:

1. Encourage all politicians to uphold the truth in their political advertisements by:
   - ➢ sticking to an issue-based platform,
   - ➢ avoiding disparagement of others, and
   - ➢ substantiating all their claims
2. Have a body composed of various sectors of society that will screen political advertisements to ensure that these are within the set policies and regulations for a truthful and ethical advertisement, similar to that being adopted by the advertising industry.

To reiterate, PANA, being a member of the Advertising Board of the Philippines or ADBOARD, has always advocated truth in advertising. The ABOARD, composed of the different member-organizations in the advertising industry, is in the forefront of self-regulation, responsible for screening various advertisements of products and services.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING



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PCSO exec asks cops to stop 'jueteng' return in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—A NATIONAL OFFICIAL OF THE Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has appealed to the Philippine National Police and local officials in the province to counter the resurgence of jueteng.

"It is the duty of law enforcers and local government units to support and protect all programs of the PCSO because all of their benefits would redound to the welfare of every Filipino," Romy Quiñones, PCSO manager of special projects department, said over the phone.

He urged the police and local government units to help eradicate all illegal gambling operations in the country, especially jueteng.

"It's disheartening to learn that several local government officials were encouraging the return of the illegal game and the police seemed not facing the seriousness of the threat posed against the lawful lottery," said Quiñones.

It was learned that jueteng operation often resulted in low collections of Small Town Lottery.

With elections only a few months away, a group of jueteng operators reportedly led by a certain Fany Abella and one Tony Ong allegedly under the protection of a Cabinet official and high police officials, has started operating the illegal numbers game in some parts of the province, notably in the Bondoc Peninsula area.

Diocese of Lucena Bishop Emilio Marquez has assailed the renewed illegal gambling operation and urged voters to unmask and not to vote for candidates who are protecting jueteng operations in their localities.

However, Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr., Quezon police chief, strongly denied that jueteng had resurfaced in the province.

This, as operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team-Quezon and the local police force of Infanta town in northern Quezon arrested six STL collectors yesterday morning.

Insp. Reynaldo Kasilag, Infanta police chief, identified the suspects as Vilma Macasinag, Rodelia Vargaz, Paz Adonado, Madeline Prudente, Ronnie Porteriño and Norman Pasatiempo.

Kasilag said the group was arrested because the local government of Infanta did not allow the operation of STL in the locality.

"STL is only allowed to operate in the nearby town of General Nakar. But here in Infanta, it is being prohibited by the local government. What they have is STL permit from the provincial government and the PCSO but not from the Infanta local government," the police explained in a phone interview.

However, Quiñonez slammed the arrest of STL bet collectors.

Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

9 farmers die as truck loaded with corn crashes

COTABATO CITY—NINE PERSONS were killed when a truck loaded with sacks of newly harvested corn and 13 passengers from South Upi, Maguindanao figured in a road mishap at the corner of Sinsuat and Quezon Avenues here on Thursday dawn.

Supt. Paniares Adap, city police chief, said truck driver Edwin Flores was negotiating a curve at the intersection when he lost control of the brakes nearly ramming the Central Bank Cotabato branch building.

"I was very much awake and I can't believe what happened when the brake failed to work while the vehicle was swerving moderately," said Flores, who was detained.

The victims were either resting or sleeping on top of the truck when the accident happened.

When the truck tilted because of its heavy load, all the nine passengers fell onto the pavement and were pinned down by sacks of corn that fell on them. *Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Souvenir items from the Dinagyang Festival in Iloilo City are displayed in one of the city's streets. The Dinagyang is one of the most popular festivals in the country.

Palace urged to scrap deal with power firm

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—LANAO del Sur Rep. Faysah Dumarpa warned that electric rates in Mindanao would increase by 100 percent in 2011 unless Malacañang rescinds what she called "a high-irregular contract" entered into by the National Power Corp. and the Lanao Hydro Development Corp.

Dumarpa, vice chair of the House committee on energy, said the deal, which covered the operation of the Agus 3, was done without bidding.

Dumarpa said she learned that most of the incorporators of Lanao Hydro are retired government officials.

"This is graft and economic sabotage rolled into one. I believe many of my congressional colleagues agree that there should be an end to all attempts to put one over our people. A revamp of the power sector is imperative," Dumarpa said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

She said the contract has violated the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) of 2001 because Napocor has no authority to enter into contracts with power producers.

Dumarpa said the signing of the contract showed that Napocor abused its authority.

"Under the Epira, Napocor has no authority and prohibited to enter into negotiated contracts with power producers as it is against the government's privatization program," Dumarpa said.

Rep. Edgar Valdez, of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperative, sided with Dumarpa.

Valdez said that the joint Congressional Power Commission wants to look into the legality of the contract although many members of the panel believed that the Epira was indeed violated by the contract signatories.

"Any contract by Napocor with Lanao Hydro for Agus 3 without public bidding is anomalous especially because of the ownership of Lanao Hydro," Valdez said.

Dumarpa said other members of the committee also urged the Ombudsman to conduct an investigation into the alleged "(Napocor) Mafia."

Napocor officials in Mindanao could not be reached for comment but Dumarpa said Napocor president Cyril del Callar has already admitted the existence of the contract.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has promised to go after power utilities involved in price manipulation, saying this practice was unacceptable and "should not go unpunished."

She made the promise before 2,500 delegates of the Liga ng Barangay National Convention at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel recently.

The President said she already instructed the Department of Energy and the Department of Trade and Industry to look into the allegations of price manipulation in the power sector. *Grace C. Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao*

Negros farmers urged to shun chemicals

By Alex V. Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—ADVOCATES of organic farming on Negros Island have encouraged farmers here to adopt chemical-free farming practices to hasten the vision of making the island Asia's organic food basket.

Pam Henares, trustee of the Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (Nisard) Program, said that more customers now prefer organically grown produce than those grown with the use of chemicals.

"This is a growing trend worldwide and there are several kinds of technology available to anyone, depending on which one works best for you," Henares said.

To hasten the vision of a chemical-free island, Negros-based nongovernment organizations involved in organic farming have already formed a group to share their farming secrets.

Nisard also initiated a four-day Negros Island Organic Food Festival in this city from Feb. 9 to 12.

Organic farming has proven its potential in the Negros market alone, with farmers reporting huge sales.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said there is even a shortage of organic products in the province. "We have a regular farmers' market at the Department of Agriculture every Wednesday and Saturday and organic produce are sold out by 9 a.m.," he said.

Arnaiz said people buy organic products even when they cost more than non-organic ones. An example, he said, is when organically grown tomatoes sold for P25 per kg, compared to the chemically grown tomatoes that were being sold for P15 per kg.

"From these results, it is clear that we have to encourage our farmers to go organic," said Negros Occidental Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco. "We will discourage people from using chemicals. This is a worldwide trend."

In Negros Occidental, organic produce is sold out by midday at the farmers' market beside the Capitol in Bacolod City, said Boyet Uychiat, a trustee of Nisard who is also into organic farming.

Uychiat also said that in the United States alone, the buyers of organically grown produce grow up to 20 percent per year.

The two Negros provinces had entered into an agreement in 2005 declaring Negros Island as the Organic Food Island of the country. The agreement, signed in Tanjay City between Arnaiz and Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon, was witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The agreement provides, among others, that the two provinces will pass a law banning genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on the island.

But while efforts to support organic farming practices are being done in both provinces, the law banning GMOs may yet take some time to materialize.

"Drafting the ordinance banning GMOs is difficult because we have to have alternative seeds that the displaced farmers could use," said Negros Oriental provincial board member Pryde Henry Teves.

Teves, who is also into organic farming, is also planting BT Corn, a GMO that organic farming advocates want to ban on the island. Teves' grandfather, Rep. Herminio Teves, is also planting BT Corn in his farm in Tayasan town, some 80 km north of Dumaguete.

He warned that while BT Corn may yield up to 9 tons per hectare, the danger of GMOs is that through cross-pollination, they will wipe out other corn varieties. The corn produced by GMOs cannot be planted to produce new crops. "So you will soon be at the mercy of these big companies who produce these seeds," he said.

Provincial agriculturist Greg Paltingca, however, downplayed the popularity of GMOs, saying that in the province, farmers are complaining of the high cost of BT Corn seeds. "And most Negrenses who eat corn instead of rice prefer white corn to yellow corn," Paltingca added.

New Cebu party claims 40 more execs joined it

A NEW PARTY THAT BROKE OFF from the ruling coalition Lakas in Cebu continues to recruit more members and claimed yesterday that 40 more local officials in the province have joined its ranks.

In a statement, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia said Cebu politicians, who expressed opposition to the move for Cebu provincial leaders to go it alone, are not leaders of the province of Cebu but of the City of Cebu.

She said the rest were lame duck politicians.

According to Pablo John Garcia, spokesperson of the Garcia family in Cebu, congressmen who opposed the emergence of a new party for Cebuanos were politicians whose terms were expiring.

"Hence, they do not matter," he said in the same statement.

"Why should Cebu province stick it out with Lakas when that party has never done anything for the province and its people?" the statement continued.

"They did not support Gwendolyn for governor of Cebu, even though her father, former Governor Pablo Garcia, was a member of Lakas and had done much for the party and province."

The statement said the One Cebu Party would join hands with any political party that would support the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, except Lakas.

Governor Garcia said the One Cebu Party's primary responsibility is the continued economic progress and social development of Cebu.

"The One Cebu Party is joining hands with other political parties and groups that recognize the need to strengthen genuine regional and local autonomy, as the dynamo of national progress," the statement quoted the governor as saying.

"Cebu has been able to mark rapid economic progress and growth through self-reliance and by tapping on the innate industry and native ingenuity of our people."

She added that "the One Cebu Party is not divisive, rather it is stressing unity in diversity and common efforts in the journey toward progress through a national *bayanihan* movement."

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS
Quezon City

January 16, 2007

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 3-2007

SUBJECT: **Regulations Providing for the Policies, Guidelines and Procedures in the Implementation of the Expanded One-Time Administrative Abatement of all Penalties/Surcharges and Interest on Delinquent Accounts and Assessments.**

TO: **All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned**

POLICY STATEMENT

The Abatement Program under Revenue Regulations No. 15-2006 has been recently implemented to provide an opportunity for taxpayers with delinquent accounts and assessments (preliminary or final, disputed or not) as of June 30, 2006 to pay 100% of the basic tax due in order to settle their existing case(s). In order to provide an equal opportunity to other delinquent taxpayers who were previously not covered by the abatement program, these Regulations are promulgated to expand the coverage thereof.

SECTION 1. SCOPE – Pursuant to Section 244 in relation to **Section 204 (b)** of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, these Regulations are hereby issued to expand the coverage of the Abatement Program under Revenue Regulations No. 15-2006.

SECTION 2. COVERAGE - The following cases shall be covered hereof:

a) Delinquent Accounts/Accounts Receivable Cases except those cases where the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has an interest and/or there is a need to coordinate with the PCGG;

b) Income Tax 2nd Installment Cases;

c) Dishonored Checks Cases;

d) Cases under administrative protest pending in the Regional Offices (ROs), Revenue District Offices (RDOs), Legal Service (LS), Large Taxpayer Service (LTS), Collection Service (CS), Enforcement Service (ES) and other offices in the National Office (NO) except those cases where the PCGG has an interest and/or there is a need to coordinate with the PCGG;

e) Assessed cases, whether preliminary or final, disputed or not, as of **November 30, 2006** except those cases where the PCGG has an interest and/or there is a need to coordinate with the PCGG;

f) **Collection and Civil tax cases** being disputed before the Department of Justice and the courts, e.g., MTC, RTC, CTA, CA and SC including decided cases which are not yet final and executory except those cases where the PCGG has an interest and/or there is a need to coordinate with the PCGG;

g) Cases with pending request for Compromise Settlement under RR No. 6-2000, RR No. 7-2001, and RR No. 30-2002 as amended by RR No. 8-2004 and other prior years' issuances. However, request for compromise settlement pursuant to the aforementioned regulations, where the amount offered is more than 100% of the basic tax which has already been approved shall not be covered by these Regulations;

h) Cases with pending request for abatement under RR No. 13-2001. However, request for abatement pursuant to the aforementioned RR, which has already been approved shall not be covered by these Regulations;

i) Failure to withhold Withholding Taxes discovered upon audit;

j) Criminal violations, (except those already filed in court, those involving Criminal Tax Fraud, those under the Rate Program of the Bureau, and tax fraud cases which are the results of confidential information, unless allowed to avail by the Commissioner or his representative on meritorious grounds);

k) Letter Notice Cases;

l) "Accounts Payable or Due to BIR" account duly recorded or acknowledged by the taxpayer in his books of accounts;

m) Taxpayers who have been paying their tax liabilities through an approved installment plan, provided, they have paid 100% or more of the basic tax as originally assessed, and provided further that they will waive any claim for refund of what they may have already paid;

n) Government Withholding Agents (e.g., NGAs, GOCCs, LGUs, etc.) or any delinquent taxpayers who have already remitted 100% of the basic withholding tax and was assessed penalties (surcharge, interest and compromise penalties) for late payment. In this case, the interest assessed shall be considered as the basic tax which should be paid to be able to avail of this Program.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS – In applying the provisions of these regulations, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a) Delinquent Account – refers to the amount of tax due on or before **November 30, 2006** from a taxpayer who failed to pay the same within the time prescribed for its payment, arising from (1) a self-assessed tax, or (2) a deficiency assessment issued which has become final and executory.

b) Assessment, preliminary or final, disputed or not, - refers to a tax assessment issued or self assessment made on or before **November 30, 2006** which has not yet become final and executory.

c) Basic Tax Assessed – The term refers to any of the following:

1.) Unpaid tax shown on the return filed;

2.) Tax due shown on the Assessment Notice and Letter of Demand, excluding surcharge and interest;

3.) Unpaid 2nd Installment Income Tax;

4.) Amount of Dishonored Check;

5.) **Deficiency interest, if the assessment issued was for penalties only (interest and surcharge).**

SECTION 4. WHO MAY AVAIL – Any person/taxpayer, natural or juridical, may settle thru the abatement program any delinquent account or disputed assessment where the Assessment Notice has been released as of **November 30, 2006**, by paying an amount equal to One Hundred Percent **(100%) or more** of the Basic Tax assessed with the Accredited Agent Bank (AAB) of the Revenue District Office (RDO)/ Large Taxpayers Service (LTS)/ Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO) that has jurisdiction over the taxpayer. In the absence of an AAB, payment may be made with the Revenue Collection Officer/Deputized Treasurer of the RDO that has jurisdiction over the taxpayer. After payment of the basic tax, the assessment for penalties/surcharge and interest shall be cancelled by the concerned BIR Office following existing rules and procedures. Thereafter, the docket of the case shall be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner, thru the Deputy Commissioner for Operations Group, for issuance of Termination Letter.

This Abatement Program shall include taxpayers who have already paid any portion of the increments (surcharge, interest, etc.) on their tax liabilities, provided, they will waive any claim for refund of paid amount in excess of 100% of the basic tax paid.

Taxpayers with existing tax case(s) on which the Presidential Commission on Good Government has/have an interest are not covered by this Program.

SECTION 5. PLACE FOR FILING APPLICATION FOR ABATEMENT OF PENALTIES AND INTEREST – All applications shall be filed, accepted and processed with the following offices:

a.) Revenue District Office – For Regional Accounts under its jurisdiction;

b.) Assessment Division – For Regional Office Cases with administrative protest;

c.) Legal Division – For Regional Office Cases with judicial protest or for judicial action or with administrative protest involving legal issues;

d.) Collection Service – For Delinquent Accounts under the jurisdiction of the National Office other than LTS cases;

e.) Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) – For Large Taxpayers Cases under the jurisdiction of the Large Taxpayers Service;

f.) Legal Service – For National Office Cases that are for judicial action or with judicial protest and/or administrative protest involving legal issue;

g.) Enforcement Service – for tax cases handled by the National Investigation Division of the National Office.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Office which has possession of the docket of the case shall receive and process all applications for abatement of penalties/surcharge and interest on delinquent accounts and assessed tax cases.

SECTION 6. MODE OF PAYMENT – Upon filing of the application for/ acceptance of the offer to avail of the Abatement Program, the amount offered in complete settlement of the delinquent account/assessed tax cases shall be paid with the Authorized Agent Banks (AABs) located within the jurisdiction of the RDO/LTS/LTDO where the taxpayer is registered. In the absence of AABs, the payment may be made to the Revenue Collection Officer/Deputized Treasurer of the City/Municipality of the RDO/LTDO that has jurisdiction over the taxpayer.

Staggered payments if the amounts payable under this Abatement Program may be considered on a case to case basis in accordance with the existing regulations of the Bureau upon approval of the Regional Director for regional cases, and concerned ACIR (LTS, Collection, Legal, or Enforcement) for National Office cases. Nonetheless, cases pending in courts shall not be withdrawn unless the concerned taxpayer fully pays one hundred percent (100%) of the basic tax.

If the amount, as abated, is not paid as required herein, the approved staggered payment is automatically nullified and the delinquent account or assessment shall be reverted to the original assessed amount plus the statutory increments incident to delinquency, which shall be collected thru the summary remedies and/or judicial processes provided for by law.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY – These regulations shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following publication in any newspaper of general circulation and shall remain in force until March 31, 2007 subject to extension by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue on meritorious grounds.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

JOSE MARIO C. BUÑAG
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

(PDI – Feb. 16, 2007)

Stocks hit 10-year high; peso rises to 48.25 to $1

From page A1

also brought about the gains in the market.

Dow Jones' new highs

The US Dow Jones industrials set new highs on Wednesday after US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke said that the US economy would grow modestly this year and that he expected inflation to continue to ease, according to reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average had risen 87.01, or 0.69 percent, to 12,741.86 Wednesday.

Favorable corporate earnings

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said the announcement of favorable corporate earnings had also buoyed investor sentiment in the local market.

Among the market's most traded stocks were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which rose P55 to P2,620.

Jollibee Foods Corp. rose 7.8 percent to P48 after it reported that its net earnings in 2006 had risen by 27 percent to P2.15 billion from P1.69 billion in 2005.

Ayala Land Inc., the second most traded issue, climbed 2.9 percent to P17.25 after it posted consolidated profits of P3.9 billion in 2006, up 7 percent from last year.

Analysts said the local stock market might not enjoy its gains for long because of profit-taking.

Influx of foreign funds

Analysts said the peso gained on the strength of the regional currency market which, in turn, was powered by stronger-than-expected Japanese economic growth.

Given the strong influx of foreign funds into the local stock market, the peso would likely test the 48:$1 barrier within the next few days, according to Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas. *With a report from AFP*

Heartrending stories pour out of survivors

From page A1

mands the body. If the victims are too distressed to eat even if they have ample food, then they won't take anything. [All these efforts] would be useless," Ludovice said.

Five to six DOH teams are conducting stress debriefing sessions at evacuation centers in Albay. Various nongovernment organizations, art groups, educational institutions (such as the Ateneo de Naga) and religious groups have also provided such services to communities of the five hardest hit areas—Legazpi City and the towns of Guinobatan, Daraga, Camalig and Sto. Domingo.

As of Dec. 28, the DOH said, its teams had provided debriefing services to 1,155 survivors.

No pushing them to talk

They visited temporary shelters (mostly in the afternoon, or after relief goods had been distributed) and conducted therapy sessions for adults willing to tell their stories of tragedy.

"We never push them to talk, or they will end up traumatized all over again," Ludovice said. "As for those who are ready, we give them a moment to relate what they saw and did during the typhoon."

The sessions—done in groups to make the participants feel they are not alone in their grief—were often heartrending.

Mothers blamed themselves for not being able to save their children; fathers were plagued with guilt over not moving their families immediately to safe ground; others were simply overwhelmed by the sight of corpses in the streets.

Health officials employed a different tack for the children. "They really can't communicate their feelings well, so we asked them to draw," Ludovice said.

The output? Sketches of buried homes, corpses sprawled in a field, children trapped on rooftops, fleeing torrents of mud and rocks in black, brown and red colors.

"From the colors they use, you will see if they have a problem," Ludovice said.

The DOH will conduct follow-up sessions until after the evacuees shall have been resettled.

"Usually the trauma would manifest itself only two or three months after the tragedy. Right now they are still preoccupied with their basic needs, like food, shelter and clothing," Ludovice said.

No tears

Some schools have conducted stress debriefing sessions for students and teachers.

A student at Aquinas University in Legazpi said that in their first week of classes early last month, their professors allowed them to share their experiences during the typhoon.

No one shed tears during those sessions. They were probably too spent to cry, she said.

'Like a monster eating everything in its path'

From page A1

the elders among them told the Neos that everyone should remain in the house that had survived past calamities.

Romer reluctantly agreed. Besides, he told himself, they were older than he and more experienced in coping with dangerous situations.

The deluge

But two hours later, floodwaters inundated his house, compelling everyone to swim to the second-floor terrace.

Romer gathered the eight children (his own four and another four) and kept them close, to ensure that no one would fall into the turbulent waters.

Within minutes, he saw the first onslaught of mud from Mayon advancing, he said, "like a monster eating everything in its path."

The black torrent twice the height of a mature coconut tree and brimming with boulders as big as nipa huts demolished a three-story house nearby. The impact created great waves of water that dislodged the Neos and their visitors from the terrace.

It happened in seconds, but Romer still sees everything in slow motion.

The waves caught him, pulled him underneath, tossed him out, grabbed him again, tugged him underneath one more time… It was, he said, like being in a cement mixer.

The muddy waters ultimately carried him to Rawis, Legazpi City, some nine kilometers from his village.

Along the way he heard nothing—not a cry of pain or a call for help—only the loud thunder of rocks colliding with one another.

Underwater, he kept his eyes open so he could dodge the rocks and slabs of concrete churned up by the flood.

On the surface, through the thick veil of rain, he saw roofs, trees and animals being carried away.

The flood eased in Rawis, allowing him to stand upright and slog through and out of the waters. By then, he calculated, it must have been around 5 p.m.

He decided to try to make it back. And he began the long walk, enduring the sand that pricked his eyes and the stabbing pain that coursed through his body.

Nearly four hours later, a relative found Romer barely conscious a few meters from their village, which by then had been buried under the mud.

No chance

"The moment I was thrown into the water, I knew there was no chance my family would survive," Romer told the INQUIRER late in January.

He was devastated, but his will to live prevailed when he thought of his daughter Nica, who was with his mother in Camalig at the time.

Among his children, only 16-year-old Nica is alive. The others are dead—Roneth, 18; Suzanne, 14; Romer Jr., 12, and Sarah, 10. His wife Janet, 43, is gone, too. Only Roneth's body has been found.

Since the tragedy, Romer has isolated himself in the house on the hill, where a nearby waterfall muffles the sounds of whatever is left of his village below.

To shake off his sorrow, he occupies himself with cleaning the area, planting, splitting wood and feeding a brood of chickens. He seldom ventures downtown; he cannot bear to see the ghastly reminders of Reming.

"People around here still talk about the typhoon. I avoid them because their stories only make me sad all over again," Romer said.

It was, he admitted, the first time he had recounted his experience to a stranger.

BARANGAY PADANG (above) in Legazpi City is now a grim landscape of devastation—houses reduced to shells, boulders and tree limbs marking the black sand. But by some miracle, the monastery of the Poor Clares, though partly damaged, is still standing.

PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

But Romer seemed to have begun to accept his loss and to take tentative steps toward healing.

"In May, I will be 47. But in my second life, I'll be one year old again," he said.

Miracles

Reming spawned many other tales of horror of varying magnitudes elsewhere in Albay—of floodwaters rising to the roofs within minutes, rivers swelling to startling proportions, whole houses crumbling, entire families suddenly made extinct.

But there were also stories of miracles and second chances.

Community organizer Jean Llorin, who grew up in Guinobatan town and is currently involved in rehabilitation efforts in some of Albay's ravaged towns, told the INQUIRER of four members of a family in Lidong, Sto. Domingo, who took shelter under a bed as Reming raged outside.

Visibility was zero when the four made the decision. They tacked a plastic sheet around the bed, crawled into the small space, and prayed.

Hours later, they stumbled outdoors to discover utter devastation to the left and right of them—"as far as the eye can reach, just sand, mud and boulders." But they had been spared.

The mudflow had forked—split into two waves—leaving their house and the Corpus Christi monastery of Saint Clare standing.

To the nuns known as the Poor Clares, their salvation could not but be God's handiwork.

"Hundreds in our neighborhood were killed in the mudslide, but we were saved," said Sister Madonna Monterey, OSC.

Monterey said she had learned from longtime residents that the lahar left from Mayon's violent eruption in 1814 had previously entombed the site where the monastery stands.

Reming sent volcanic debris rolling down the same path—but the deadly swath split in two.

The monastery is just a few meters away from Barangay Padang in Legazpi City, of which practically nothing is left but a grim landscape of broken houses and mounds of black sand.

Under a slight drizzle, these were among the scenes to show that there was once life in Padang—a streamer bearing a birthday greeting for 4-year-old Kyla, torn and fluttering in the wind, and a lone dog scurrying into an abandoned house.

Piled corpses

"When we visited Lidong after the typhoon, corpses were piled in one corner. The survivors were hysterical; they embraced us for comfort," Monterey said.

Reming did not exactly leave the monastery untouched, she said, showing the INQUIRER photos of the damage that she herself had taken.

The chapel lost its roof and the wooden pews were broken. The hut that had served as the receiving area was destroyed; the trees and flower-bearing plants in the backyard were uprooted.

Floodwaters smelling of sulfur submerged the nuns' sleeping quarters at the back of the chapel.

Still, a number of families who came to seek shelter on that fateful day were not turned away, Monterey said.

Two days later, the Poor Clares left for their monastery in Sorsogon on the advice of soldiers who had warned that more rain could trigger another mud avalanche.

On Dec. 21, unsure of ever returning to Lidong, the nuns left for their priory in Cabuyao, Laguna.

In the silence of a weeklong retreat, they contemplated on whether to continue their mission in Albay. But they returned to their monastery on Jan. 18.

"We decided to come back, but we will leave once we have a safer place to stay," Monterey said, citing their "enclosed lives" that had not prepared them for "running" or "fleeing."

The monastery's current site is a 1.2-hectare piece of land flanked on the right by the sea that daily offers a panoramic view of the sunrise, and on the left by the "beautiful yet dangerous" Mayon.

"This could have been a perfect spot for a monastery. But God showed us the dangers of this place…," Monterey said.

She said that after the Poor Clares relocate, the monastery would be converted into a retreat house. *Conclusion: Getting life back on track*

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PAL jet overshoots Tacloban runway; none hurt

A PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) flight from Manila overshot the runway while landing at the Tacloban Airport yesterday, partially burying its nose in the dirt and shutting down the facility, as aviation authorities investigated the incident.

An initial report received by the Air Transportation Office (ATO) in Manila said the Airbus 320, with 113 passengers and six crew on board, rolled beyond the edge of runway 36 as its pilot, Capt. Rey Canlas, brought it down at 7 a.m.

No one aboard Flight PR 191 was hurt, said Rolly Estabillo, PAL vice president for corporate communications.

The aircraft, which seats up to 156 passengers, had departed Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Centennial Terminal at around 6 a.m., Estabillo said.

"Nothing happened to the passengers and everyone went their way upon disembarking from the plane. There were no reported injuries," Estabillo told the INQUIRER by phone.

The ATO Tacloban tower said the remaining four flights for the day were canceled as the disabled plane blocked the runway. These were the 8 a.m. Manila-bound Cebu Pacific Air flight and arrivals by the same airline at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., as well as PAL's 2 p.m. flight from Manila.

"It's still there, stuck on the ground and what we're trying to do now is extract it," Estabillo said.

The ATO report said the plane had its "nose partially buried" in the ground. Estabillo said no emergency call was sent out by the aircraft prior to its landing.

Tarra Quismundo

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Don't give campaign fees to NPA, candidates warned

By Alcuin Papa

ANY POLITICIAN who gives in to the extortion demands of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) will face rebellion charges, police warned yesterday.

In a press conference yesterday, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Dir. Gen. Oscar Calderon also said any businessman who contributes to the NPA's "revolutionary taxes" will be charged.

Calderon advised politicians not to give any money to the NPA as part of the so-called "permit to campaign" fee.

Communist rebels have been known to ask politicians for the fees come election time. Depending on the economic status of the area, the fee can go as high as P500,000 for senatorial candidates, P400,000 for gubernatorial candidates and P300,000 for congressmen.

"If it can be proven that the 'fee' is made as part of a conspiracy to overthrow the government, the 'donor' may be held liable as a co-conspirator in the crime of rebellion. We are discouraging any politician from giving support and giving in to the extortion activities," Calderon warned.

He also said that incumbent government officials campaigning for re-election can be culpable for violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials if they pay the NPA's fee.

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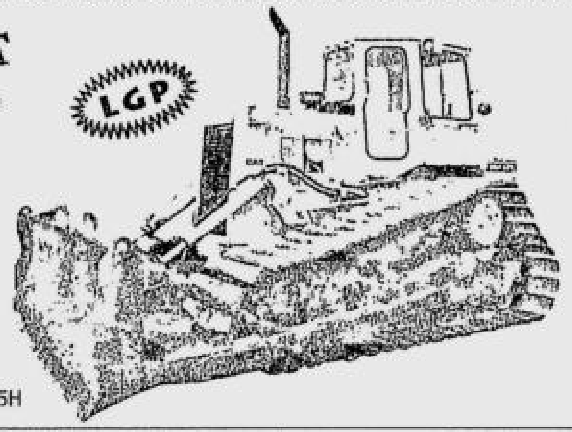

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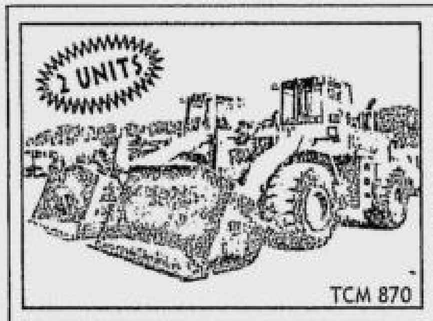

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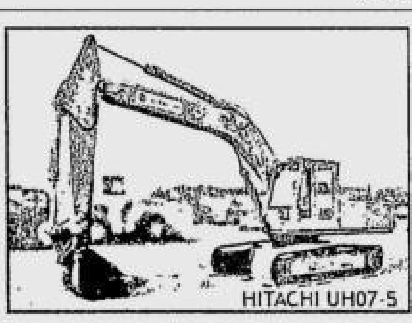

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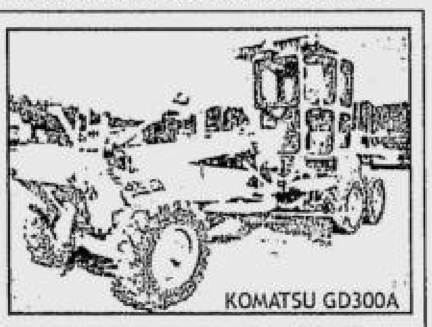

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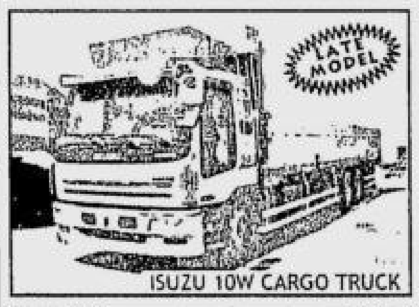

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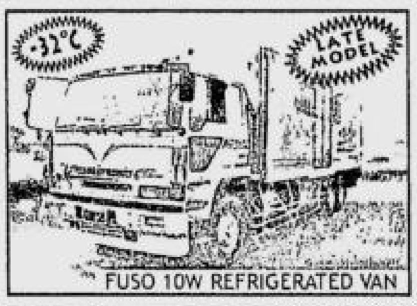

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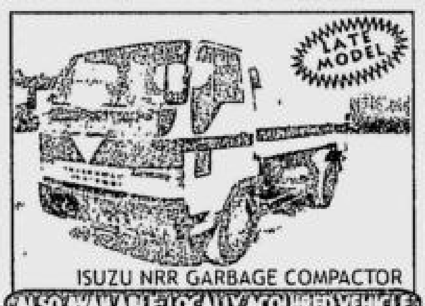

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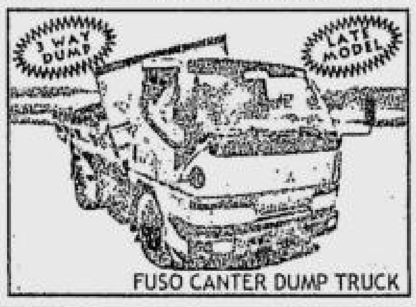
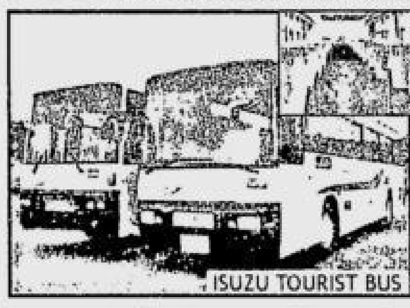


FUSO CANTER DUMP TRUCK



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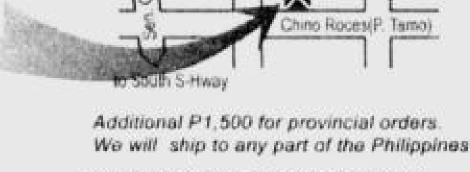

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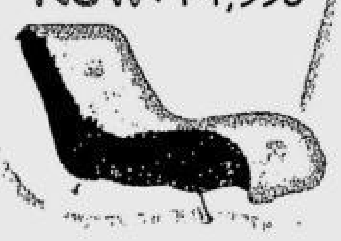

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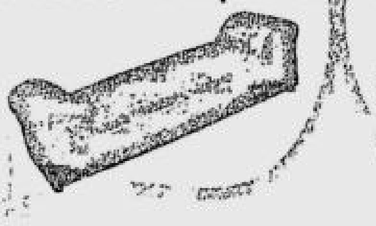

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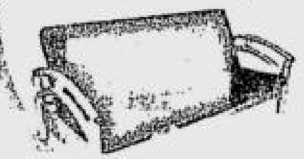

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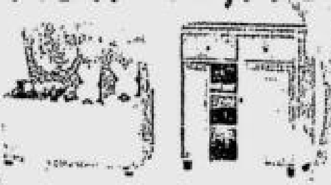

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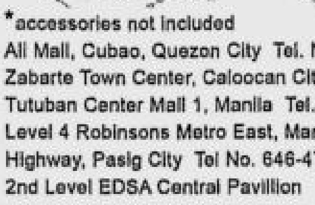

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Peewee cries foul over exclusion move

Ousted Pasay mayor vows to file perjury raps vs petitioners in case

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CAMP OF DISMISSED PASAY Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad is crying foul a month into the election period.

The ousted city mayor protested yesterday the exclusion of over 2,000 people from the list of registered voters, after the Metropolitan Trial Courts (MTC) ruled that they were not residents of the barangays they gave as addresses.

He said he would file charges of perjury against the petitioners for making "malicious and false allegations against the residents included in the petitions."

In a press conference yesterday, former city administrator Cristina Carvajal said "some concerned citizens" of the city filed petitions for exclusion last week.

The petitioners were identified as Manolito Caindoy, Elizalde Abrigo, Mary Enalyn Mauri, Emmanuel Dacumos, Elizabeth Mendoza, Cresencia Manumbaga, Joevi Aguila, Ramon Zoilo Merzo and Rosalinda Domondon.

As a result of the petitions, several residents of Barangays 21, 76, 165, 182, 185, 201, 13, 144 and 183 were dropped from the list of registered voters, Carvajal added. The city has 201 barangays and about 354,908 residents.

Even some barangay chairs and former Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto were removed from the roster because they were allegedly not residents of their barangays.

The petitioners alleged the subjects of their complaints were "ghost" or "flying voters." They also claimed they conducted a house-to-house survey in December and found that the excluded voters were not living in the addresses they gave.

During a hearing last Friday, MTC branches 44, 45 and 47 ruled that the nonappearance of the voters in question was prima facie evidence that they were fictitious and should be dropped from the voters' list.

Trinidad said he was puzzled that the petitioners themselves were not residents of the barangays covered by their complaints.

"These petitioners are from other barangays, far from the barangays (covered by) their petitions for exclusion," Trinidad said.

Gerely Rico, legal counsel for the United Opposition–Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said they had filed an urgent motion for clarification and correction of the decisions of the MTCs.

"It is sad to see that this early, there are those who would go to the extent of excluding legitimate voters. These petitioners, who profess to be concerned about making the elections clean and honest, are themselves the very epitome of dishonesty and unscrupulousness," the lawyer said.

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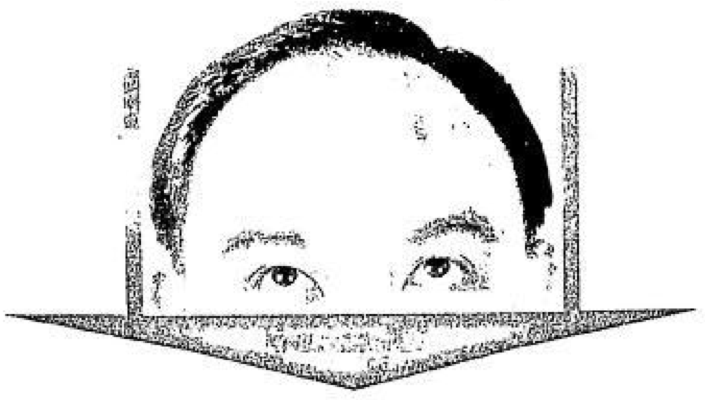

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NBI opens gallery of treasured mementos

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) has set up a gallery near its main headquarters' entrance on Taft Avenue in Manila to showcase its treasures.

On display at the NBI Gallery is a collection of pictures and special objects donated by present and former agents who have served the bureau.

NBI Public Information Office chief Alex Carbonell said, "We decided to call it a gallery temporarily because we are still in the process of gathering mementos and souvenir items." He added that former NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco originally planned to have a special room built at the front of the headquarters' ground floor.

Current director Nestor Mantaring is now considering the conversion of the director's office on the third floor into a museum.

Carbonell said they asked the National Library to provide them pictures of former NBI directors like Jose Lukban and Alberto Ramos.

The gallery currently displays pictures of agents taken in 1948 and 1953 in front of the bureau's old office in Intramuros, as well as photos of the old building and the old Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office building on Taft Avenue where the bureau held office from 1952 to 1972.

"All past directors have their own pictures showing highlights in their career," Carbonell said, pointing to photos of Jolly Bugarin inspecting rifles and several pistols seized from a Yakuza hideout in 1990 and Alfredo Lim presenting the suspects in the celebrated Cochise-Beebom rape-slay case.

Carbonell said they were contacting former NBI directors, their families and other retired officials to donate mementos that would help tell the NBI's illustrious history.

"Former director Mariano Mison donated a pen holder he used while Mrs. Patricia Toledo, wife of the late NBI chief Santiago Toledo, gave us photos of her husband," Carbonell said. On display in glass cases are gadgets the bureau has used through the years. The Nippon Electric Company telephone set was used by the NBI from the 1950s to the 1980s.

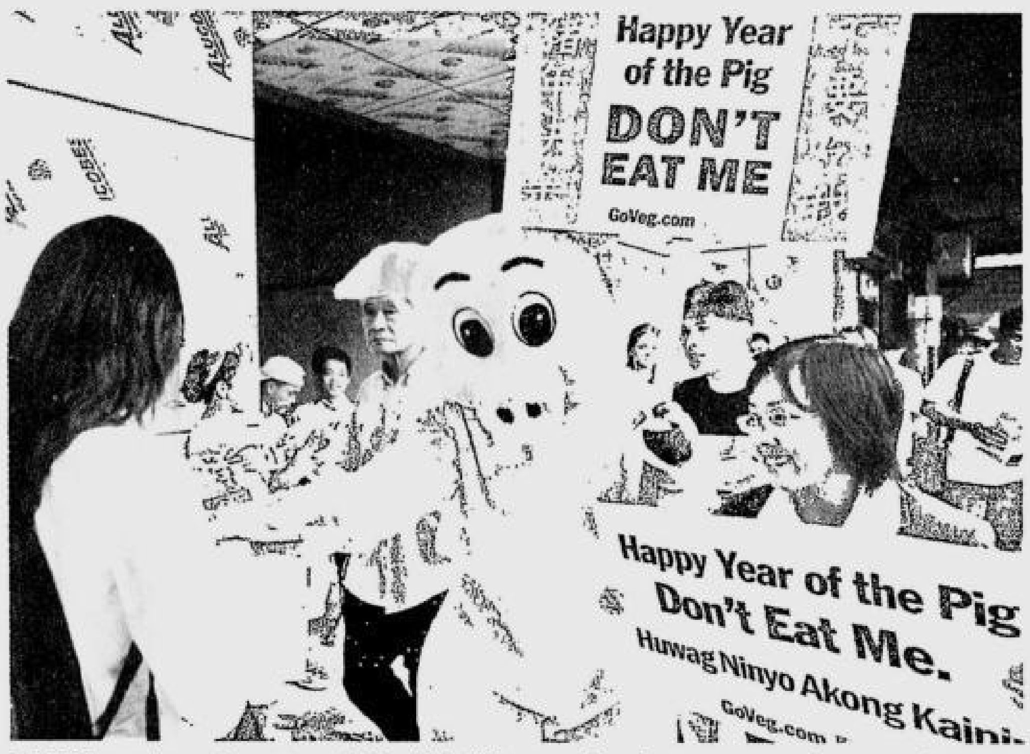
A graflex photorecorder, an old manual camera used to take pictures of people applying for NBI clearance from the 1950s to 1980s is also on show, as well as a picture frame monitor with two hidden cameras that could discreetly check the NBI director's visitors.

"We also have a Micro-16 camera, a spy camera used in the late 1950s and early 1960s used by crime photographers and agents during surveillance operations," Carbonell said.

The NBI unearthed in a store room an undated NBI wooden seal showing a full-length Lady Justice. The new seal only shows half of her body.

LUCKY CHARMS
Vendors sell round-shaped fruits for good luck in Binondo, Manila to celebrate the coming Chinese New Year on Sunday.

EDWIN BACASMAS



A MAN wearing a pig costume in Manila's Chinatown hands out to passersby vegetarian starter kits for a healthier lifestyle.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Moms stage protest vs milk firms

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DESPITE FEEDING HER SON DAILY with milk products widely advertised on television, Glenda Colasito constantly worried about the sickly 9-month-old baby who could not get over his cough and colds.

Putting the blame on artificial milk for her son's condition, Colasito, with her baby, joined more than 100 mothers in condemning two foreign giant milk companies in Makati City yesterday for "marketing lies" and taking advantage of their vulnerability and poverty.

The mothers also vowed to file criminal charges and to seek damages against Wyeth Philippines Inc. and Mead Johnson for allegedly taking their hard-earned money after they were made to believe that artificial milk was the best option, next to breastfeeding, in order to meet the nutritional needs of their babies.

Ines Fernandez, executive director of the Arugaan Foundation, a staunch advocate of breastfeeding, attributed the death of 16,000 babies in the country every year to malnutrition and other illnesses brought about by artificial milks.

Dr. Lester Lora also enumerated a number of complications affecting babies who were never breastfed: Diarrhea, respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases, diabetes, malnutrition and obesity.

"We are not prohibiting the sale of their products but their advertising is undermining the importance of breastfeeding," Lora said.

Fernandez said they would back up the 150 mothers in the filing of criminal case against the two companies for allegedly violating the milk code

Meanwhile, Andrew Santos Jr., vice president of Wyeth Philippines Inc., assured their consumers that their products go through 800 to 1,000 quality checks before they hit the shelves of supermarkets.

"The products are definitely of the highest quality," he said, adding that the company has never stopped advocating breastfeeding. "We believe that breastfeeding is best for babies."

DID YOU KNOW

THE PHILIPPINE Constabulary School, a forerunner of the Philippine Military Academy, was established on Feb. 17, 1905. It was first located in Intramuros, Manila, but was transferred three years later to Baguio City, first at Camp Henry Allen, then at Teacher's Camp. In 1936, the PMA was created through Commonwealth Act No.1.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Have a lechon-less New Year

By Allison W. Lopez

PIGGING OUT IS NO WAY TO welcome the Year of the Pig, according to an animal rights group.

As people prepared for Sunday's celebration of the Chinese New Year, activists from Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) staged an awareness campaign yesterday along Ongpin in Sta. Cruz, Manila and urged Filipinos to shun the popular *lechon* and instead go vegetarian.

"This is not a protest action. It's to raise awareness and correct bad impressions about pigs," said Rochelle Regodon, Peta's campaigns manager. A campaigner in a flashy pink pig costume distributed free vegetarian starter kits, while the others waved placards saying, "Happy Year of the Pig. Please don't eat me."

Regodon, a vegan, said, "Pigs are amazing animals. They are intelligent, sensitive, and can feel emotions as well. If people see animals as such, maybe they will stop eating them."

The comprehensive starter kits contained features on vegetarian diets, recipes and meat alternatives.

Peta said giving up pork would not only keep farm animals safe but was also beneficial to health. It cited research showing that eating pork and other meat products that contained saturated fats, increased the risk of heart diseases, obesity and cancer.

The Department of Health lists hypertension or high blood pressure as the fifth leading cause of death among Filipinos, claiming 342,000 lives in 2004.

"Vegetarianism is also an easy and fun way to get sexy," said Regodon. She mentioned celebrity vegetarians like model Isabel Roces and actress Chin Chin Gutierrez. Regodon said the number of vegetarians in the Philippines increased yearly, an indication of a move toward "a healthier lifestyle."

'Guards in shabu case could face charges'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

JAIL GUARDS WATCHING OVER THE accused and accuser in the celebrated Pasig shabu mart case are now in hot water themselves.

Lawyer Raymund Fortun, counsel of the alleged owner of a compound of shabu stalls in Pasig City, is threatening to file charges against policemen escorting his client's main accuser, Samer Palao.

He said the lawmen were escorting Palao to the Pasig City Regional Trial Court without any permission and an order from the Marawi City Regional Trial Court that issued an arrest warrant against Palao last year.

On the other hand, government prosecutors asked yesterday how suspected drug den operator Amin Imam Boratong managed to leave his detention cell at the National Bureau of Investigation for a checkup at the Medical Center in Manila without the court's permission.

Pasig RTC Branch 154 Judge Abraham Borreta said that in both instances, the jail guards had a lot of explaining to do.

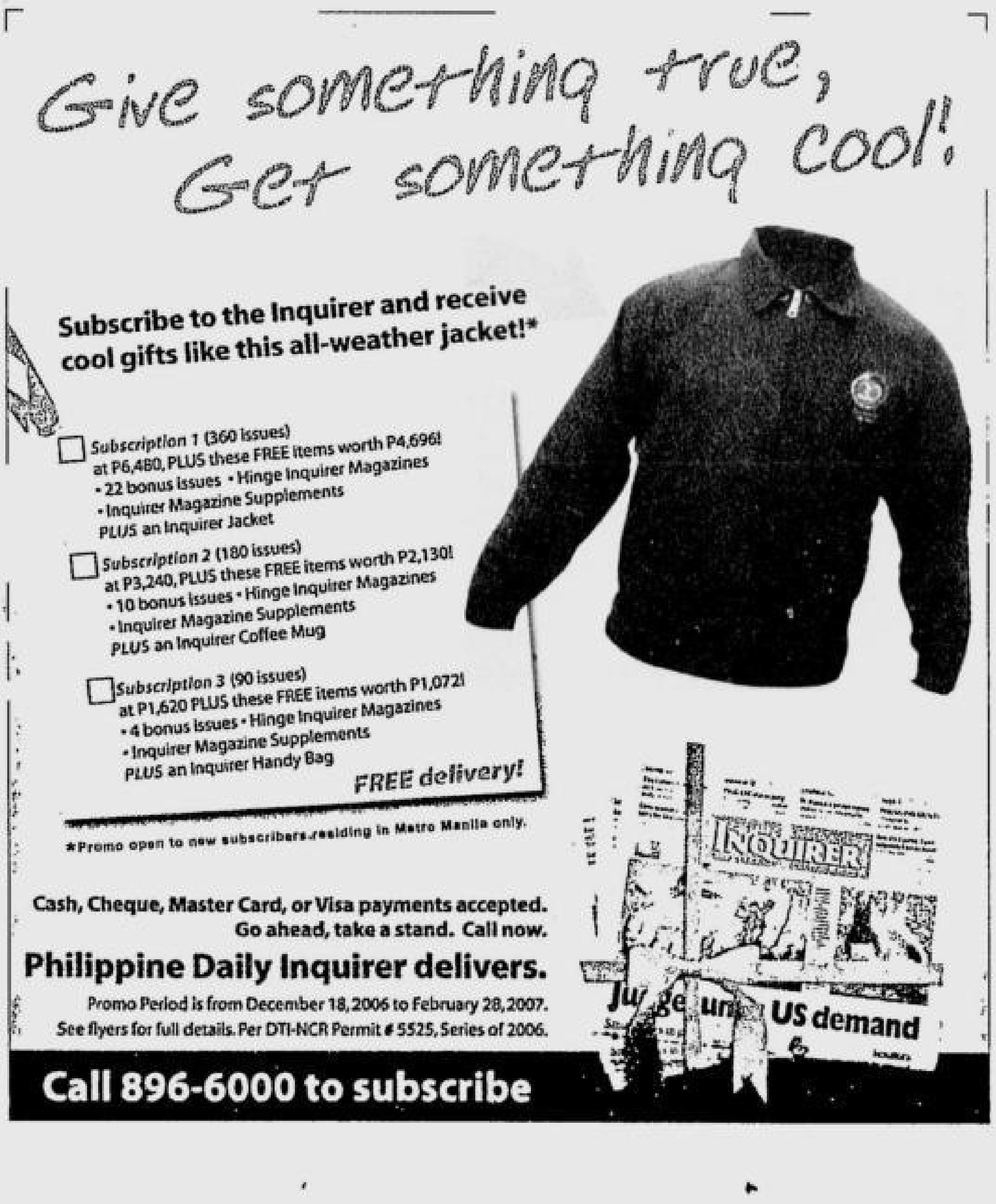
Borreta told reporters he would ask the guards watching Boratong why they should not be cited in contempt. He also told the prosecution to file a motion for the issuance of a subpoena to require Palao's attendance in the hearings and to ask the Marawi RTC to allow him to attend the sessions.

Palao testified he was the right hand of Boratong who he said owned the shabu compound. Boratong denied the allegation saying Palao operated the drug den. Palao was scheduled to continue his testimony during the hearing yesterday afternoon. The hearing was canceled after nearly two hours of debate.

Boratong failed to show up at the hearing yesterday. Fortun submitted a medical certificate from NBI medico-legal officer Roberto San Diego that said Boratong had a blood pressure of 150/100.

Fortun sought the postponement of the hearing last week, saying he himself could have a heart ailment and he did not want to risk his life pending results of a checkup.

Sought for comment, a PNP lawyer told the INQUIRER they were ready to face any charges against them.



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METROBRIEFS

I dead, 3 hurt in shootout

THREE persons, including two policemen, were seriously hurt, while another was killed during a shootout between authorities and alleged drug traffickers in Tondo, Manila Wednesday afternoon. Injured were P03s Wilfredo Magbitang and Christopher Llanes, both assigned at the Delpan Police Community Precinct; and 18-year-old laborer Jeffrey Ostalano, of Purok 1, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo. They were taken to Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital after they sustained gunshot wounds in different parts of the body. Killed during the shootout was one of the two suspects identified only as a certain Banjo. The other suspect, known only by his alias, Bassid, managed to escape, police said. A manhunt was launched against the suspect who reportedly had standing warrants of arrest for killing a couple and a Bantay-Dagat volunteer a few years ago.

Tina G. Santos

Too much to bear

FINANCIAL difficulties and resentment could have pushed a former account executive to stab and then torch a 28-year-old doctor in Manila last month. Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr., head of the Manila Police District (MPD) Homicide Section, said they would file murder charges against Rolly Roa, 28, who is suspected to have killed Vicente Maramag. An investigation showed that Roa flew to Bahrain the day Maramag's body was discovered inside the victim's car in Sta. Mesa, Manila. According to the police official, the suspect was last seen in the victim's Novaliches neighborhood on Jan. 26. "The suspect had lived with Maramag for a long time before they had a falling out," Yanquiling said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

NOT SAME MODEL
In the Metro Section of the Jan. 9 issue, a photograph of a fashion model was one of two pictures used to accompany the article titled "Model denies affair with Valera." The common caption for the two photos implied that the model was Hergielyn Dimagiba. In a phone conversation with the INQUIRER, Ms Dimagiba denied that she was the model shown in the picture. The INQUIRER regrets the error.

Spain on edge as '04 train bombs trial begins

RESCUE workers cover up bodies alongside a bomb-damaged passenger train, following a number of explosions in Madrid, Spain, in this March 11, 2004 photo. AP

MADRID—TWENTY-NINE PEOPLE go on trial in Spain on Thursday charged over the 2004 Madrid train bombings that killed 191 people, and triggered the fall of the government and the withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq.

Spain has raised its terror alert to medium from low as the trial opens just weeks before the third anniversary of the March 11 bombs, the deadliest al-Qaida-related attack in Europe.

Hundreds of police will protect the Madrid courtroom where the accused—Arabs and Spaniards—face charges ranging from membership of a terrorist group to stealing dynamite from mines in northern Spain to sell to the bombers, often in exchange for drugs.

Of these, three are alleged to have masterminded the attack.

A fourth key organizer was one of seven suspects who blew themselves up in an apartment block weeks after the bombs.

"This is the beginning—or rather the end of the long, hard road we've been on for the last three years," said Pilar Manjon, the head of a victims association.

The bomb exploded on four packed commuter trains and as well as killing 191, injured about 2,000 people.

They not only traumatized Spain but also led to the fall of the conservative government that initially blamed Basque separatists ETA for the attack, which hit three days before general elections.

Whenever more evidence pointed to Islamist militants, Spaniards turned out in force to demonstrate against the government and voted them out of power. Soon afterwards, new Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero fulfilled an election pledge to pull Spanish troops out of Iraq.

The prosecuting judge who prepared the case linked the bombs to a call by Osama bin Laden to attack countries that backed the US-led war in Iraq and to an Internet essay that urged attackers to hit Spain before the elections.

An almost 100,000 page report drawn up by the state prosecutor and seen by Reuters says four men heeded the al-Qaida call and started planning the attack in 2003. They recruited others at a Madrid mosque and from common criminal circles.

One of the alleged ideologues, Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed, who is charged with inciting people to carry out the attack, will be the first to take the stand in Madrid.

Ahmed, known as "Mohamed the Egyptian," has already been convicted of belonging to a terrorist group and sentenced to 10 years in jail by an Italian court. He has been extradited to Spain for the Madrid hearings.

The hearings are expected to last until July when the three-judge panel will retire to consider the evidence. They are not expected to come out with their verdicts and sentences until October at the earliest. *AP*

10 bombs hit 4 packed Madrid trains

THE MADRID TRAIN BOMBINGS and what happened next.

Following are some of the main facts about the March 11, 2004, attacks:

- What happened: Ten bombs hidden in sports bags exploded on four packed commuter trains between 7:37 and 7:40 a.m. One train was at Madrid's main Atocha station. Another was 500 meters away. The other two were at stations on a line into Madrid.

The bombs were set off by mobile phones.

- Who did it: Islamist militants, mostly Moroccans. A video message said the attacks were revenge for Spain sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. The judge investigating the case said the attack was inspired by, but not ordered by, al-Qaida.

Nine Spaniards have been charged with supplying dynamite for the bombs.

The then-ruling conservative party first pinned the blame on ETA and some right-wing media and politicians have continued to try and link the Basque separatist group with the Islamists. The state prosecutor has ruled out any link.

- Victims: 191 people were killed, almost 2,000 people were injured.

- What happened next politically: Spain held a general election three days later and voters turned out in force to vote out the conservative Popular Party, which had backed the US-led war in Iraq.

The new Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero won the election and quickly fulfilled an election pledge to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq. Spain still has soldiers in Afghanistan.

- What happened next with the bombers: On April 2, Spanish police found another bomb on a high-speed railway line between Madrid and Seville. No one was hurt.

On April 3, seven prime suspects blew themselves up in an apartment block when they found themselves surrounded by police.

One policeman was killed in the blast.

- What it cost: The judge who investigated the attacks said the explosives, mobile phones and accommodation cost the bombers about 55,000 euros ($71,460), some of it raised by selling drugs. Some materials, including cars, were stolen.

The group had up to 1.5 million euros' worth of hashish and ecstasy they could have sold to raise more cash, the judge said. *Reuters*

Sperm donor establishes contact with his 'family'

By Amy Harmon

THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED RITual for how an anonymous sperm donor should contact his genetic children. But for Jeffrey Harrison, Valentine's Day seemed as good an occasion as any.

"It's a short life," he said, "and these children need to have some kind of resolution. I thought I could send a little valentine, kind of, to everyone, just saying 'hello.'"

Harrison had been thinking about getting in touch since reading in an article in The New York Times 15 months ago that two teenagers whose mothers had used his sperm to conceive were looking for him. The headline said, "Hello, I'm Your Sister, Our Father Is Donor 150." Harrison made $400 a month donating sperm under that number twice weekly during the late 1980s.

California Cryobank, the sperm bank that had promised anonymity to its customers and to Harrison, proved unresponsive to his requests for assistance.

Once one of the sperm bank's most-requested donors, with a profile that described him as 6 feet tall and blue-eyed with interests in philosophy, music and drama, Harrison, 50, lives in a recreational vehicle near the Venice section of Los Angeles with his four dogs.

Six weeks ago, Harrison logged on to the Donor Sibling Registry, the web site devoted to facilitating connections between donor-conceived offspring, where the two girls, Danielle P. and JoEllen M. had found each other. Four more teenagers from his sperm samples had since surfaced, he found. Harrison resolved to contact them.

Last Saturday, Harrison e-mailed a picture of his birth certificate to Wendy Kramer, the founder of the sibling registry, to confirm his identity. Several dozen donors have contacted offspring on the registry, Kramer said, but none have been brave enough to come forward with such a large group of teenagers.

Danielle and JoEllen called Harrison together the next day. The moment that had preoccupied their fantasies for years began in a more prosaic fashion than they had anticipated. But they said they were not disappointed.

"The first thing he said was, 'Holy moly,'" said Danielle, 17. "He's sort of a free spirit, and I don't care what career he has. I got to talk to his dogs."

Harrison met a third daughter, Ryann M., in Los Angeles on Tuesday. His other offspring, who live in Colorado, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania, are busy marveling over their shared love of animals and the distinctive forehead evident in the pictures he has e-mailed. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

US to build military base in Australia

CANBERRA—The United States is to build a new military satellite communications base in Australia, the government said on Thursday, after three years of secret negotiations between the two allies. The new base will relay signals and intelligence to US forces in the Middle East and Asia from Geraldton, 400 km north of the West Australian state capital Perth. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told parliament the base, construction of which will start in months, would help underpin the close Australia-US alliance. But Greens lawmakers warned it would become a target for extremists. The United States already has bases at Pine Gap, near Alice Spings, which provides early missile launch warning for Asia and the Middle East, and Northwest Cape in Western Australia, which carries signals to US nuclear submarines in Asia and the Pacific. *Reuters*

Bird flu strikes Egyptian woman

CAIRO—A 37-year-old Egyptian woman tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus and European officials on Wednesday debated whether they needed to take more action after an outbreak of the virus in British turkeys. The World Health Organization confirmed the woman had tested positive for the avian influenza virus, making her the 21st case in Egypt. She was being treated in a hospital. Egypt has the highest-known cluster of human cases outside Asia, with 12 deaths out of the 21 infected cases since the virus first surfaced in Egyptian poultry a year ago. *Reuters*

EU nations hit over secret CIA flights

STRASBOURG—The European Parliament on Wednesday condemned EU member states who had turned a "blind eye" to secret CIA flights used to transport terror suspects, some of whom were tortured. The parliament approved a report that implicated several members, including Britain, Germany and Sweden, and called for an "independent inquiry" to be considered plus compensation for the "innocent victims." The parliament's members (MEPs) regretted "that European countries have been relinquishing their control over their airspace and airports by turning a blind eye or admitting flights operated by the CIA." The report was endorsed, after sifting through 270 proposed amendments, by 382 MEPs, with 256 voting against and 74 abstentions. *AFP*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Koreas agree to meet, paving way for aid

KIM JONG IL AFP

SEOUL—NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AGREED on Thursday to restart high-level talks, paving the way for food aid to resume after this week's breakthrough energy-for-disarmament deal with Pyongyang.

Officials from the two Koreas, which are technically still at war, agreed to hold ministerial talks in Pyongyang on Feb. 27.

Talks were frozen and the South suspended food and fertilizer aid to its impoverished neighbor in the wake of Pyongyang's defiant missile and nuclear tests last year.

The rapprochement follows Tuesday's six-country agreement in Beijing on dismantling the communist state's nuclear arms program, which could also bring a thaw between old foes Washington and Pyongyang.

A South Korean news report said nuclear negotiators Kim Kye-gwan of North Korea and the US State Department's Christopher Hill would visit each other's capital soon.

"It looks like the idea will become reality soon," a source in Seoul told the Chosun Ilbo newspaper.

The deal struck by the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia requires the secretive state to shutter its Yongbyon reactor within 60 days in exchange for 50,000 tonnes of fuel oil or equivalent aid.

After the 60-day period, energy-hungry North Korea would receive another 950,000 tonnes of fuel oil, or equivalent aid, when it takes further steps to disable its nuclear capabilities.

The agreement also included provisions for the United States and Japan to discuss normalizing ties with North Korea, and said Washington would begin the process of removing Pyongyang from its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

"It offers North Korea the path to coming out of its shell … that all starts with denuclearization," the United States' ambassador to Seoul, Alexander Vershbow, told a business lunch.

US President George W. Bush said on Wednesday that critics of the deal—which came after more than three years of halting negotiation and a nuclear test by Pyongyang last October—were "flat wrong." John Bolton, his former ambassador to the United Nations, has criticized the accord for taking pressure off North Korea in exchange for only partially dismantling its nuclear program.

"I changed the dynamic on the North Korean issue by convincing other people to be at the table with us," Bush said, citing the importance of having other countries party to the deal.

"So the assessment made by some that this is not a good deal is flat wrong," Bush said. "Now, those who say the North Koreans have got to prove themselves by actually following through on the deal are right and I'm one." Bush, who had previously bracketed North Korea with Iran and pre-war Iraq in an "axis of evil," recognized that the agreement was only a first step.

"There's a lot of work to be done to make sure that the commitments made in this agreement become reality," he said.

Ministerial-level talks between North and South Korea—which have spurred economic cooperation, handouts from Seoul to Pyongyang and better relations—broke down in acrimony last July after North Korea defied warnings and test-fired missiles. *Reuters*

Shifting landscape pressed rivals together

WASHINGTON—IT IS HARD TO imagine that either George W. Bush or Kim Jong il would have agreed even a year ago to the kind of deal they have now approved. The pact, announced Tuesday, would stop, seal, and ultimately disable North Korea's nuclear facilities, as part of a grand bargain that the administration has previously shunned as overly generous to a repressive country—especially one that has not yet said when or if it will give up its nuclear arsenal. But in the past few months, the world has changed for both Bush and Kim, two men who have made clear how deeply they detest each other. Both are beset by huge problems, and both needed a way out.

For Bush, bogged down in Iraq, his authority undercut by the November elections, any chance to show progress in peacefully disarming a country that detonated a nuclear test just four months ago could no longer be passed up. As one senior administration official said over the weekend, the prospect that Bush might leave Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and North Korea more dangerous places than he found them "can't be very appealing."

Still, the accord came under fast criticism from right and left that it was both too little and too late.

For years, Bush's administration has been paralyzed by an ideological war, between those who wanted to bring down North Korea and those who thought it was worth one more try to lure the country out of isolation. In embracing this deal, Bush sided with those who have counseled engagement, notably his secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, and her chief negotiator, Christopher R. Hill. Bush took the leap in the hope that in a few months, he will be able to declare that North Korea can no longer produce fuel for new nuclear weapons, even if it has not yet turned over its old ones.

For Kim, the nuclear explosion—more of a fizzle—that he set off in the North Korean mountains not far from the Chinese border in October turned out to be a strategic mistake. The Chinese, who spent six decades protecting the Kim family dynasty, responded to the test by cutting off his military aid, and helping Washington crack down on the banks that financed the Cognac-and-Mercedes lifestyle of the North Korean leadership.

But as the White House took credit on Tuesday for what it called a "first step," it found itself pilloried by conservatives who attacked the administration for folding in negotiations with a charter member of what Bush called the "axis of evil," and for replicating key elements of President Clinton's 1994 agreement with North Korea. *NYT*

SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY
Migratory ducks take flight during sunrise at the Palo Verde National Park in Bagaces, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, Feb. 14. The 20,000-hectare park is home to some 250,000 migratory birds, such as teal, geese and ducks that arrive from North America to winter in the park, making up one of Central America's largest concentrations of waterfowl and wading birds, both native and migratory. REUTERS

Saudi Qaida group urges attacks on US suppliers of oil worldwide

DUBAI—A SAUDI WING OF AL-Qaida called for attacks on suppliers of oil to the United States around the world, saying targets should not be limited to the Middle East and listing Canada, Venezuela and Mexico as under threat.

The threat appeared in the al-Qaida Organization in the Arabian Peninsula's e-magazine, Sawt al-Jihad (Voice of Holy War), which was posted on a web site used by Islamist militants.

"It is necessary to hit oil interests in all regions which serve the United States, not just in the Middle East. The goal is to cut its supplies or reduce them through any means," it said.

The group was behind a failed February 2006 attack on the world's largest oil processing plant, the Abqaiq facility in Saudi Arabia.

"Targeting oil interests includes production wells, export pipelines, oil terminals and tankers and that can reduce US oil inventory, forcing it to take decisions it has been avoiding for a long time and confuse and strangle its economy," it said.

Officials and regulators in Canada's oil and gas sector said they were taking the threat seriously but had not raised security levels.

"We've always said that we're not immune to possibilities of terrorism," Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said.

Canada is the biggest exporter of crude oil to the United States, followed by Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Mexico said its crude oil installations were safe and there was no immediate plan to step up security. President Felipe Calderon's office said it was evaluating the threat.

The country, which ships about 1.4 million barrels a day of crude to the United States, tightened security around its Gulf of Mexico oil rigs in 2005 in line with international norms, a spokesperson at state-run oil monopoly Pemex said.

Venezuela said it was prepared to investigate the threat.

"The Venezuelan state's intelligence apparatus is ready to launch any investigation in order to guarantee the operation of our strategic resources … with a view to ensuring any early warning," Venezuelan Interior Minister Pedro Carreno told reporters.

The militant group also vowed new attacks in Saudi Arabia.

"For some time now, we have been preparing some quality attacks which will shake the foundations of the crusaders (Westerners) in the Arabian Peninsula," said the magazine, reappearing after a nearly two-year absence following a Saudi clampdown.

"And we tell our leader Sheikh Osama bin Laden that we are proceeding on the road (of Jihad) … your soldiers in the Arabian Peninsula are working to prepare for what would please you and the believers," the magazine said in another article.

The issue, dedicated to the theme "Bin Laden and the Oil Weapon," also carried operational details of the attack on the Abqaiq facility and an interview with a militant who said he had taken part in the raid.

Al-Qaida leaders have repeatedly called for attacks on oil installations to block supplies to punish the West for what they see as a US-led war against Islam. *Reuters*

KERMIT IN DANGER
A Glass frog blending well among green leaves. The once common melody of ribbits, croaks and chirps is disappearing as a mysterious, killer fungus rapidly wipes out frog populations around the globe, a phenomenon likened to the mass extinction of dinosaurs. AP

Anne Frank's best hope, fading in letters

By Patricia Cohen

ON APRIL 30, 1941, JUST DAYS after a Gestapo courier may have threatened to denounce Anne Frank's father, Otto, to the Nazis, he wrote to his close college friend Nathan Straus Jr. begging for help in getting his family out of Amsterdam, Netherlands, and into America.

"I would not ask if conditions here would not force me to do all I can in time to be able to avoid worse," he wrote in a letter that forms part of a 78-page stack of newly uncovered documents released Wednesday. "Perhaps you remember that we have two girls. It is for the sake of the children mainly that we have to care for. Our own fate is of less importance."

Frank needed a $5,000 deposit to obtain a visa, and Straus—the director of the federal Housing Authority, a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt and the son of the co-owner of Macy's—had money and connections. "You are the only person I know that I can ask," he wrote. "Would it be possible for you to give a deposit in my favor?"

A PHOTOGRAPH of Otto Frank (right) with his daughters Anne (center) and Margaret (left) with yellow stars worn by Dutch Jews is shown over a display of newly released documents. AFP

That letter begins a series of personal correspondence and official papers that reveal for the first time the Frank family's increasingly desperate efforts in 1941 to get to the United States or Cuba before the Nazis got to them. The papers, owned by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, had lain undisturbed in a New Jersey warehouse for nearly 30 years before their discovery.

The story unfolds in the painstaking exchange of letters journeys across continents and from state to state. Each page adds a layer of sorrow as the tortuous process for gaining entry to the United States is laid out. The moment the Franks and their American supporters overcame one administrative or logistical obstacle, another arose.

Ultimately, powerful connections and money were not enough to enable the Franks, not to mention most other European Jews, to break through the State Department's tightening restrictions. By the summer of 1942, the Franks were forced into hiding. They remained in the secret annex for two years before being turned in, probably by the same courier who initially may have tried to blackmail them. As schoolchildren around the world know, the story ends with the death in concentration camps of 15-year-old Anne, her sister Margot and her mother, Edith, and the publication of Anne's diary, now a literary and historical landmark that personalizes the Holocaust's immeasurable loss. *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Celtics finally get out of rut /A30

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UN names Sharapova ambassador of goodwill/A30

Harbour nears PBL title

Port Masters thwart Hapee, take 2-0 lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE'S CRACK shooter struck as Hapee-PCU's guns went silent yesterday, powering the Port Masters to within a win of their second straight PBL crown.

GAME TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2:30 p.m.—PBL Achievement Awards
3:15 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Harbour Centre (Game 3-Finals)

Chico Lanete, sensational since the semifinal round, scored Harbour Centre's last five points as the Port Masters completed their arduous climb from a 20-point hole and took a 2-0 edge over the Teeth Masters in their best-of-five Silver Cup Finals yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo Gym.

The 6-foot Lanete buried a triple with only a minute left for Harbour Centre's go-ahead basket and then watched as Hapee-PCU bungled two chances to reverse the outcome, a reflection of their measly 3-point output in the fourth quarter.

Hapee-PCU shoots for the title in Game 3 at 3:15 p.m. tomorrow at The Arena in San Juan.

Lanete, who poured in a game-high 20 points, also nailed a jumper that moved Harbour Centre within a point, 60-61, with two minutes left.

"We started bad but finished good," said Harbour coach Jorge Gallent. "We were just fortunate that (Beau) Belga missed an easy layup."

The Teeth Masters, in fact, had two chances in the last nine seconds to forge an extra period.

Before Belga missed an open basket underneath, Mark Moreño's three-pointer from the right corner also rimmed out.

HARBOUR/ A28

WINNING SHOT: As the Harbour Centre bench, including team consultant Junel Baculi (in blue) hold their breath, Chico Lanete buries the game clincher.

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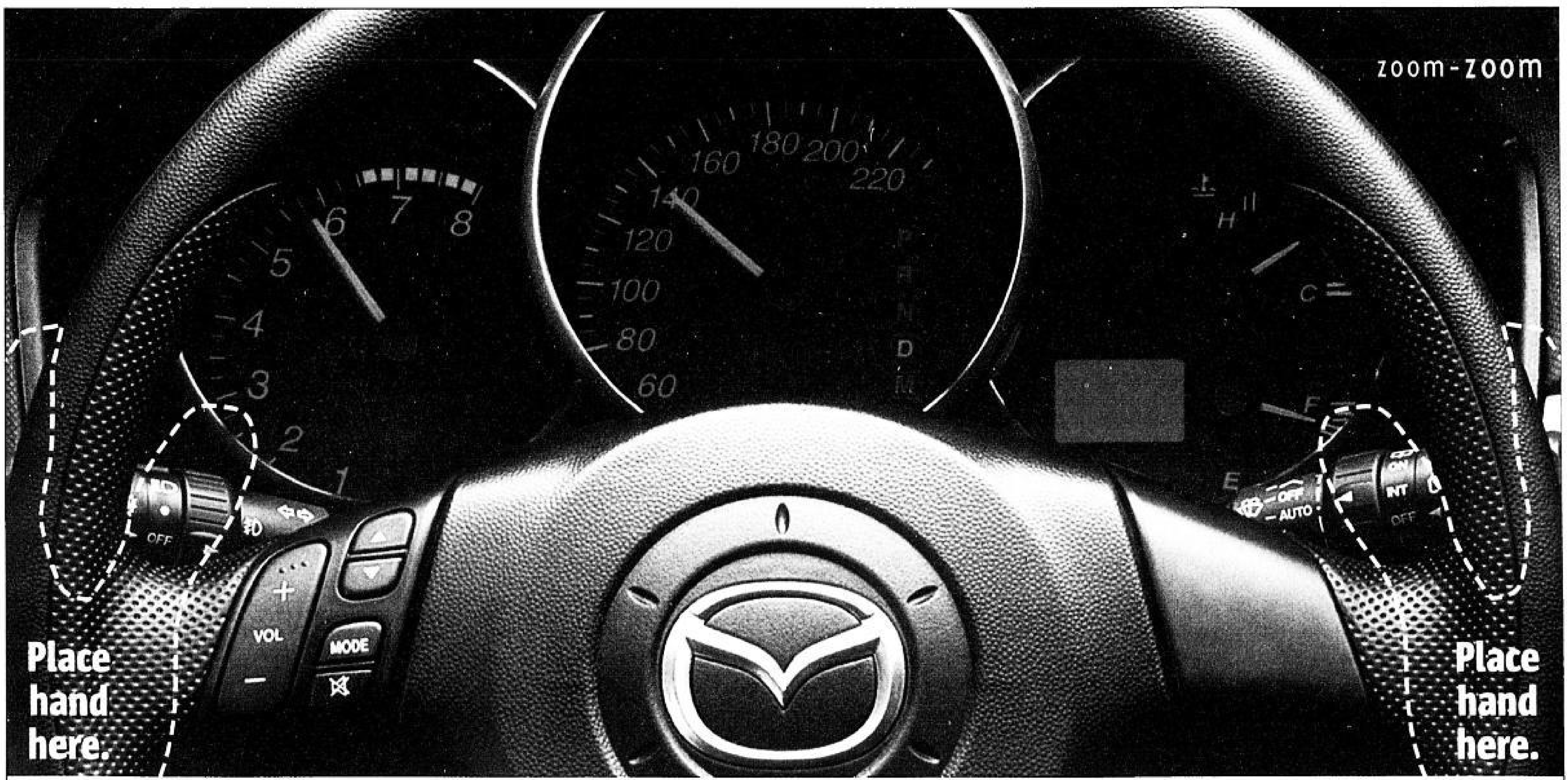

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PAL Interclub on; Luisita seeks Canlubang scalp

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

PAL vice president Felix J. Cruz hits a ceremonial drive opening the tournament. RYAN LIM

CAGAYAN DE ORO—REINFORCED BY an American standout, Luisita hopes to unseat defending seniors champion Canlubang—and wipe out the stigma of its misadventure last year—in the Philippine Airlines Interclub championship which celebrates its 60th season starting here today.

Tom Culligan, an old Interclub hand, gets to show his mettle with a top team that boasts Iggy Clavecilla, Richie Garcia and former amateur champion Francis Gaston as the Luisitans vow to give their Laguna-based rivals an honest-to-goodness fight this time.

King Sumulong, Freddie Mendoza, Cesar Muñoz and Peregrine de Guzman round out the Luisita roster which is likewise seeking to recover lost face following its disqualification at the end of the final round last year for fielding a player who was not in the original lineup submitted during the first captains' meeting.

But the grave Luisita error did not take anything away from Canlubang's smashing first triumph in the division for players 55 years and above. The Sweeties would still have won by 12 points if the Luisitans did not get the ax. In the end, Canlubang went on to prevail by 31 points over Alabang.

The win paved the way for a Canlubang championship double as the team likewise dominated the men's regular tournament six days later to raise its leading collection of titles to 13.

Canlubang is fielding the same balanced squad this year spearheaded by the celebrated Tommy Manotoc and Rollie Viray. Backing them up are Bing Bunye, Lino Magpantay, Florencio Adriano and longtime men's team manager Luigi Yulo.

At 66 Culligan, who used to play for the Mabuhay team in this tournament, may not be as razor-sharp as before, but Mendoza said the American holds the distinction of being a four-time North California seniors champ.

A former Philippine Open low amateur at Wack Wack in the '80s, Culligan has been playing at the Pueblo de Oro course here and the Del Monte layout in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, since last week with Clavecilla.

Play in the senior championship and the Founder's, where Wack Wack is the defending champion, begins tomorrow with entries in the Sportswriters and Friendship divisions joining the fray today. Teams field eight players for two rounds with the top five scorers counting.

The seniors ceremonial tee-off was held yesterday with six officials hitting the first drive led by tournament chair Domingo Duerme, PAL senior assistant vice president for Mindanao sales.

Also doing the honors were Rodolfo Menes, VP-GM, Pueblo de Oro Development Corp.; Raul Leonin, Del Monte Corp. executive; Manolo Fortich Mayor Socorro Acosta and Bukidnon Vice Gov. Alex Alingasan.

The regular men's event will be held Feb. 21-24.

Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Callaway golf, 105.1 Crossover, GE Aviation, Gecas, Mizuno, People Asia and Royal Caribbean are the major sponsors.

The corporate supporters are wwwinquirer net, Business Mirror, Fortune Tobacco, GMA-7, Premier Wine & Spirits and Radio Mindanao Network.

Gin Kings out to level series today

JONG UICHICO KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE AND HIS BARANGAY GINEBRA crew got in winning Game 3 of the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup title series Wednesday night against San Miguel Beer.

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
7 p.m.—San Miguel vs Barangay Ginebra

And after showing the Beermen that his Gin Kings have the bite to back up the bark, Uichico is making sure that his former team feels what's about to come.

"Now, we have a legitimate chance at winning the series," Uichico said, moments after a 131-101 dumping of the Beermen at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

"They (Beermen) know that if we tie this (series with a win Friday), the pressure will now be on them."

The crucial fourth game is scheduled at 7 tonight at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao with the Kings having a lot of things going their way, despite the fact that they are down, 1-2, in the best-of-seven series.

For one, psychological edge will be with them, having blown the Beermen off the court in Game 3 after going on a rampage late in the second quarter.

For another, Eric Menk can be asked to go full throttle tonight, with a rest day coming on Sunday and the fifth game not scheduled until Wednesday next week.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand also woke up from a brief stupor and was at his sharpest form in leading the Kings to their maiden victory in the series.

And the predominantly pro-Ginebra crowd will certainly become louder.

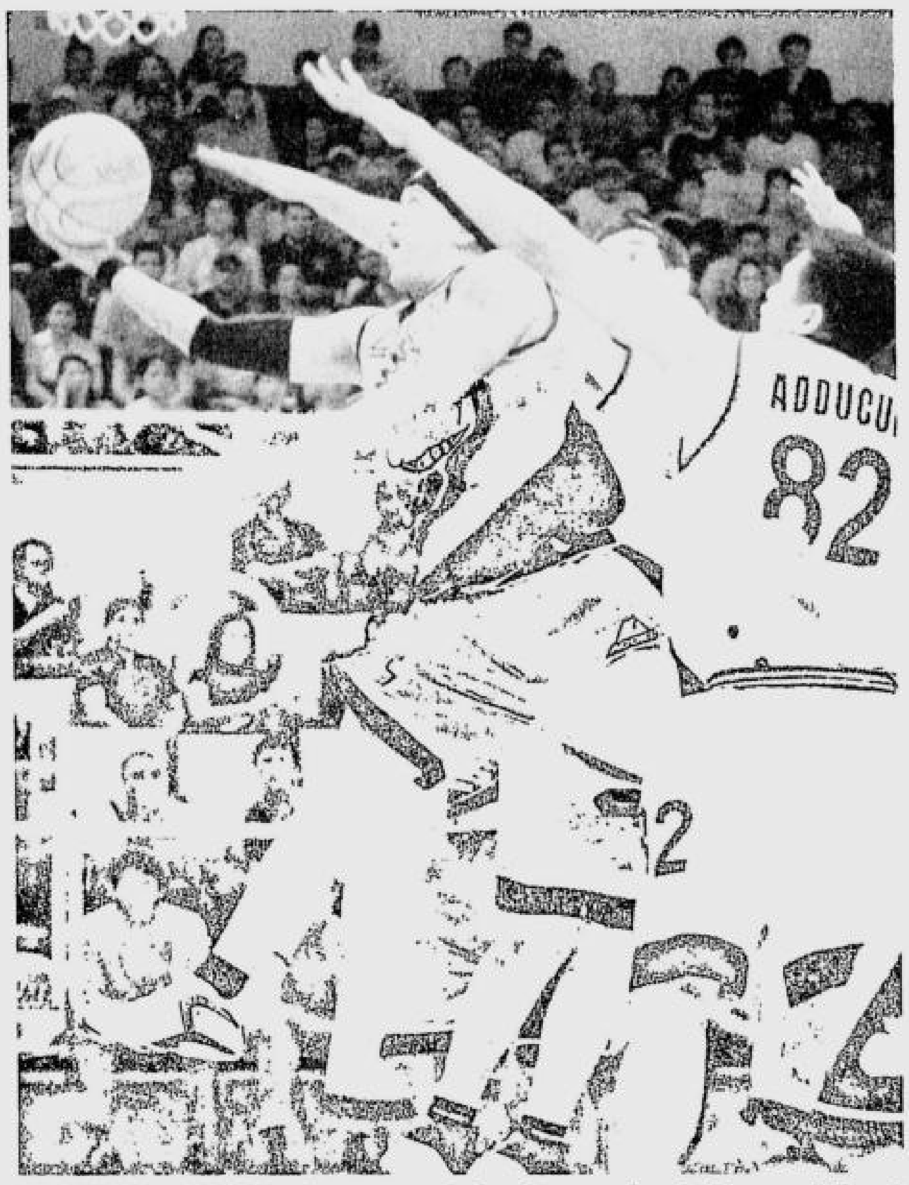
"We've been in this situation before," Uichico said. "We also fell behind (by the same deficit) in the Talk 'N Text series and the players just stepped up.

"They were challenged because we were in a foxhole and our backs were against the wall. The players just worked hard and found a way out of it."

Game 3 started and ended as a shootout, and the Kings walked away with the winning end after getting six players, led by Rudy Hatfield's 28, to contribute twin-digit scores.

Rafi Reavis had 13 points and 10 rebounds—in the third quarter alone. He finished with 15 boards, while Helterbrand had a night-high 12 feeds.

The second half of the game also saw the Kings limit Danny Seigle to a veritably harmless six points after the shifty forward scored 20 in the first half, 10 in each quarter.


THE GIN Kings' Mark Caguioa squeezes in for a layup against the Beermen's Romel Adducul and Danny Seigle in Game 3 of their PBA Finals Wednesday. RYAN LIM

Seigle is the player hurting most in this series, always getting the raw end in physical skirmishes. But he still leads everyone in scoring after his 22 in Game 1, 31 in Game 2 and those 26 in SMB's first loss.

Menk, meanwhile, was made to play for 27 minutes after missing the entire semifinal series with Talk 'N Text. He was benched in Game 1 and played just 12 minutes in the title series opener.

He finished with 12 points Wednesday night and had 11 rebounds, and coming in healthier for tonight's clash will certainly make life a bit harder for the Beermen underneath.

Musong R. Castillo

Reyes as RP coach to Seaba 'not a done deal'

By June Navarro

CHOT REYES IS THE TOP CONTENDER, BUT the head coaching job of the national team to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championships won't be handed to him on a silver platter.

Like anybody else, the national coach has to pass through the scrutiny of the selection committee tasked by the BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas to choose who will be the coach of Team Philippines for the event slated in May in Kuala Lumpur.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, chair of the five-man selection committee, said the committee was supposed to meet with Reyes yesterday but moved the meeting to Monday next week.

Trinidad said the committee would like to hear first the programs that Reyes has drawn up for the Seaba-bound team.

"It's not a done deal yet," said Trinidad. "We're just giving coach Chot the opportunity to present his program. He still need to satisfy the members of the committee."

The committee, which also counts Wilson Young, Christian Tan, Lito Alvarez and Jun-Jun Capistrano as members, has also opened the Seaba coaching portfolio to other aspirants.

"We have to go through the process. Since Chot is the front-runner and we don't have any candidates yet, we'll start with him."

Trinidad, however, stressed that the coach would have a blanket authority on the formation of the team.

"If he feels forming a team made up of PBA players, amateurs or a mixture of both, it's up to him," said Trinidad.

Parents get in way of shuttlers' progress

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE BADMINTON IS IN A DILEMMA.

Talents are aplenty but, apparently, no one is willing to make the sacrifice to train extensively for the national team, according to national head coach Errol Chan yesterday.

Chan has just come up with a handful of new candidates for the national pool, including 14-year-olds from Iligan City. Problem is, parents are hesitant to let their kids train in Manila, let alone go overseas.

"I'm a parent myself and in a way I understand their concern; the kids' studies will be disrupted," Chan told the INQUIRER. "But how can I convince them (parents) to allow their kids to train in China for three months?"

Chan is preparing a youth-powered national team that will cut its teeth in a Beijing training camp before playing in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games this December.

He has picked Wilmar Alfeche and Kim Serentas, who topped the 15-under boys doubles of the recent Yonex-Sunrise regional badminton championships in Cebu City. He is also interested in training the mixed doubles pair of Dia Nicole Magno and Ian Bautista of Butuan City.

"They could be in the national pool, but we are still studying a better arrangement for them," said Chan. "Their availability is the foremost concern, although talent is abundant."

Chan rued the fact that national pool candidates could earn more as instructors and tournament officials in badminton centers than playing for the national team.

"The money they get as national pool members (about P4,000 a month) is not enough," said Chan. "Unfortunately, certain private sponsors are not willing to gamble on these new talents."

RP pool mainstays Recson Salvaleon, 19, and Alfredo Mailon, 21, captured the Class A men's doubles title in the Yonex-Sunrise event, the multi-leg tournament that hopes to cull fresh talents from the countryside.

Cebu City's Geryl Alewate and Joebelyn Espigol clinched the ladies doubles title, while Butuan City bets Ian Mendez and Rina Batuigas annexed the mixed doubles championship.

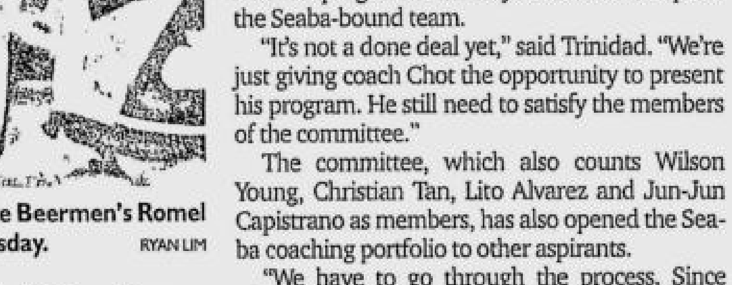
SPORTSWATCH

National Rambulan schedules set

THE MANAGEMENT OF SAN JUAN COLISEUM HAS ANNOUNCED THE COMplete schedules of the P10.5-million National Rambulan 8-Cock Derby, the country's biggest inter-cockpit event that is expected to draw more than 800 entries. Eliminations and semifinal rounds in Luzon will be staged at Mabuhay Cockpit (Feb. 27, March 13 and 20); Bacolor Cockpit (March 31, April 2 and 16); Isabela BC (Mar. 2); SN Coliseum (March 23 and April 9); Malolos SC (March 16 and 22); Jaen (March 15 and 18); Pangasinan Coliseum (Mar. 6, 9 and 12); Paniqui (March 29 and April 5); Solana CA (March 9 and 23); Malvar SC (March 10); Sta. Rita (March 8); Lucky SC (March 23 and 30); Dictado MC (March 15 and 22). In Metro Manila, fights will be held at San Juan Coliseum on March 1, 3 and 6 and March 19, 21 and 24. Call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

100-plus fights in Pasay cockfest today

MORE THAN 100 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE "BARKADAHAN 4-COCK DERBY" which unfolds at 3 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit. A guaranteed prize of P500,000 awaits the winners of the event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, said host Gerald Vandolf Go. The derby is a showdown among leading cockers and derby regulars from cockpits in Metro Manila like Roligon, San Juan Coliseum and those in Pasig, Las Piñas, Pasay, Sta. Ana, Cainta, Del Monte and Valenzuela, said Go.


CHERIFER CHAMPS: DON Bosco-Makati standouts John Paolo Dauz, Cedric Umali and John Ryan Glimtang and their teammates gather around the champion's trophy they won for nipping Don Bosco-Mandaluyong, 26-24, and capturing the recent Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball tournament's first leg at the Marikina Sports Park gym. The hoopfest was supported by Adidas.

Corporate Cup slated at CJH

BAGUIO CITY—THE 19TH PHILIPPINE Corporate Cup, one of the most awaited golf team events in the country's summer capital, tees off March 5 to 8 at the up-and-down Camp John Hay Golf Club.

The three-day, 36-hole championship is open to teams of four players each, said tournament chair and Camp John Hay GM Jeric Hechanova.

The Molave scoring system will be used and teams will be classified into groups I (5-9.9 handicap), II (10-13.99), III (14-18.99) and Group IV (19 and up) and seniors, based on three of the four players with the lowest handicap indices.

Hechanova said team entry fee is P45,000 inclusive of two rooms at Camp John Hay Manor Hotel for four nights and one practice round.

Camp John Hay Dev. Co., CJH Manor Hotel, Mizuno, Wilson Sports, Le Chef, Club Leisure and Golforce Inc. are supporting the annual event.

Members of the National Golf Association of the Philippines' national training pool for the past three years get an automatic zero handicap and are eligible to play only in the Group I division.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams per group with the highest point total after 36 holes.

The overall individual champion and the top scorer in all groups will be feted as well. The top three teams and the best three players in the senior group will also win trophies.

Harbour Centre nears title

From page A27

With gunners Jason Castro and Larry Rodriguez leading their offense, the Teeth Masters had all the momentum going in the first three quarters.

But a scoring drought hit the Teeth Masters in the final period and numerous turnovers also compounded their woes.

After an early scoring rampage that saw them up by as many as 20 points, 28-8, the Teeth Masters had only three points to show—a Ronald Bucao triple at the 6:40 mark—in the final period.

The scores:

HARBOUR CENTRE 63—Lanete 20, Vergara 9, Fernandez 9, Gaco 8, Intal 3, Gamboa 3, Alonzo 2, Williams 2, Asoro 2, Capati 2, Coching 0, Araña 0.

HAPEE-PCU 61—Castro 16, Rodriguez 10, Moreño 8, Borboran 5, Sanz 5, Bucao 3, Hugnatan 2, Butel 2, Rodriguez 0, Larong 0, David 0.

Quarters: 12-28, 32-40, 50-58, 63-61

PCSO collegiate shootfest gets going Sunday

TOP COLLEGIATE SHOOTERS FROM THREE universities plunge into action Sunday when the 1st PCSO Inter-Collegiate Shooting Competition fires off at the indoor shooting range of the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City.

Competition will be limited to the air pistol event in both the men's and women's categories of the tournament organized by national air-pistol record holder Therese Cantada in coordination with Joe Cantada Sports.

A cast of 18 shooters from Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines and De La Salle University are vying for cash prizes to be awarded to the top three finishers in both classes.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, through general manager Rosario C. Uriarte and PR and publicity manager Manuel C. Garcia, is supporting the event being held to discover talents from the collegiate level.

The shooting event will be covered for television by Joe Cantada Sports and will be aired on the regular weekly television sports program Golf Power Plus at 4 p.m. Tuesdays on RPN-9.

RACING BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1 — (Qrt/Tri) — Ocean Cookie/Unleashed (5), Dona Gelay (3), Mr. Bonjing (1), Fernan Ikaw Pa Rin (7).

Race 2 — (Qrt/Tri) — Snowdipped (8), Kalmia (6), Sacred Hall (3), Isle of Fire (5).

Race 3 — Naglalabyog, (1) Mister Cool (5), Hazabellago (3), Kaligatan (2), Jaw Breaker (4).

Race 4 — (Qrt/Tri) — White Princess (1), Ingay Ingay (3), Princess Adarna (4), Diplomatic Bull (5).

Race 5 — (Penta/Qrt/Tri) — Please Do (2), Sand Pebbles (3), Miss Lilipilly (6), Our Sailor Moon (8), Regal Boom (5).

Race 6 — (Qrt/Tri) — Mulligan (5), Dixie Dash (2), Carmelita (3), Lord Elgene (6).

Race 7 — (Qrt/Tri) — Sharp Cookie (4), Tereshkova (7), Flying Jojie (6), Circulation (5).

Race 8 — (Penta/Qrt/Tri) — Love A Trick (2), Eye Wink (1), Balwarte (5), Angel of Light (6), Regent Skipper (8).

Race 9 — (Super/Qrt/Tri) — Petro Dollar (3), Real Material (1), Brazen Truth (5), Reign of Fire (6), Charmingly Chit (9), Whistle Blower (2).

Agojo settles for 2nd spot; Pepperdine puts it away

AGOJO: Final-day 77

PALOS VERDES, CALifornia—Freshman Cho Mi-sun shot a final-round 2-under-par 69 to claim individual honors and help ninth-ranked Pepperdine to team victory at the Northrop Grumman Regional Challenge Wednesday at the par-71, 5,912-yard Palos Verdes Golf Club.

Cho, a native of Cheongu City, South Korea, bested Filipino teammate and two-day leader Jayvie Agojo, who tumbled with a 77 for a 219 total, one shot off Cho's 218 aggregate.

The 20-year-old Agojo, a former member of the Philippine team, fired a 69 and 73 in the first two rounds.

The Waves finished the 54-hole event with an 882, nine shots in front of Arizona State (891). Florida (901) placed third while Oklahoma State (904) was fourth and Arizona (907) fifth.

Pepperdine topped a field that included 14 teams ranked in Golweek's latest Top 30 poll and topped the tournament for a record third time, previously winning in 2003 and 2005.

Pepperdine posted the low round of the tournament after shooting a 4-over par 288, and five players broke par, including Cho.

The victory was the first for Cho, who lay seven shots behind Agojo overnight.

Cho posted 14 pars and two birdies to pip Agojo and four other players.

"We received solid play throughout our lineup as Jayvie was leading the field for most of the tournament, and Eileen (Vargas, 71-221) and Stephanie (Gelleni, 71-224) stepped up during the final round," said head coach Laurie Gibbs.

US ring scribes pick Pacquiao best of 2006

Roach is trainer of the year

PACQUIAO: Three impressive victories

NEW YORK—FILIPINO boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao was honored as Fighter of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America, while his trainer, Freddie Roach, was the Trainer of the Year.

Pacquiao won three times in 2006, stopping Mexican legend Erik "El Terrible" Morales in two of the bouts, including the final installment of their slam-bang trilogy, "Grand Finale," in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roach was in the corner for all three bouts for the left-handed Filipino, who is not a reigning world champion but commands fight purses that eclipse those received by fighters who lord it over in the super featherweight class.

Pacquiao will receive the prestigious Edward J. Neil Trophy for 2006, while Roach will be the recipient of the Futch-Condon award as the year's finest trainer, his second after winning it in 2003.

Fighter and trainer will be honored at the 82nd annual BWAA Annual Awards Dinner on June 8 in New York.

Ring Magazine

Pacquiao's selection came after he was also chosen by Ring Magazine, the bible of world professional boxing, as Fighter of the Year.

The Filipino ring icon edged out four other nominees—pound-for-pound rival Floyd Mayweather Jr., Bernard Hopkins, Joe Calzaghe and Israel Vazquez—for the award.

Roach, meanwhile, snared the honor over such other big-name tacticians as Emmanuel Steward, Enzo Calzaghe, Naazim Richardson and Victor Valle Jr.

The World Boxing Association super bantamweight title bout in France between Thailand's Somsak Sithchtchawal and Mahyar Monshipour on March 18 was named Fight of the Year.

Ali also honored

Muhamad Ali was honored by the BWAA with the Pat Putnam Award for Perseverance while HBO analyst Larry Merchant was the hands-down pick to receive the James J. Walker Award for long and meritorious service.

The Top Rank public relations tandem of Lee Samuels and Ricardo Jimenez will share the Marvin Kohn Good Guy Award.

Samuels and Jimenez, according to the BWAA, combined to form one of the most efficient and multifaceted publicity departments in boxing.

Steve Albert, with 20 years of experience calling fights for Showtime, will get the Sam Taub Award for excellence in broadcast journalism.

With reports from Salven Lagumbay, Contributor; AP

Lingo powers UP spikers; Tigresses lean on Bernal

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LEAGUE'S TOP SCORERS PLAYED TRUE to form and powered their respective squads to the championship round of the UAAP volleyball tournament on Wednesday night at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Jerome Lingo slammed 16 kills to lift the University of the Philippines past the University of Santo Tomas, 25-23, 25-20, 25-27, 25-20, for the remaining Finals berth in the men's competition.

Lingo, who totes a league-best 98 points, top-scored with 18 and drew help from Joseph Ramos and Jan Paolo Martinez in warding off the Tigers in the final set.

UST, though, will see action in the women's Finals after disposing of Adamson University, 25-13, 25-18, 25-13, in their winner-take-all semifinal match.

League-leading scorer Venus Bernal hammered consecutive attacks right in the opening frame to finish with a remarkable 25 points, including 22 kills.

Bernal, way ahead in the women's statistical race with 151 points, made up for the low production of veteran teammate Mary Jean Balse and led the Tigresses to a 19-9 advantage in the first set.

The two finalists will clash with top-seeded teams from Far Eastern University which are both vying for a tournament sweep.

FEU claimed the first men's Finals berth after outclassing National University, 25-20, 25-16, 25-21, in the Final Four last Sunday.

The Lady Tamaraws also secured an early championship ticket with a 25-9, 25-18, 25-19 semifinal victory over the University of the East.

The best-of-three championship series begins on Sunday with FEU battling UP in the 2 p.m. men's finals and FEU tangling with UST in the 4 p.m. women's play.

CJAP Induction

CHESS WRITERS: National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general and Tagaytay Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino inducts the officers of the Chess Journalists Association of the Philippines, headed by Ed Andaya of People's Tonight at the National Press Club in Intramuros, Manila, recently. Also in photo are Roy Luarca of the INQUIRER, vice-president; Dani Simon of Police Files, auditor; Arman Armero of Standard Today, secretary; Joey Villar of Philippine Star, auditor; Noli Cruz of Manila Bulletin-Tempo and Cristien Moncada of Malaya, PROs; and Orlando Primo of Dyaryong Orig and Marlon Bernardino of Bandera, business managers. Dante Navarro of Star is the other CJAP vice president.

Filipino darters on target in HK Bullshooter Asia tilt

HONG KONG—FILIPINO DARTERS WERE right on target in the recent Bullshooter III Asia, clinching the men's triple championship at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Center.

Team Philippines, made up of Rolando "Toto" Andrade of Tondo, Manila, Ramon Sabolboro of Laloma, Quezon City, and Lourence Ilagan of Parola, Cainta, beat Germany in the finals of the Feb. 2-5 event. Rose Noble of Comembo, Makati City, was the team's lone female member.

The Pier One Bar & Grill-backed Team Philippines also shone in other events of the tournament that lured 400 of the world's top darters from 14 countries.

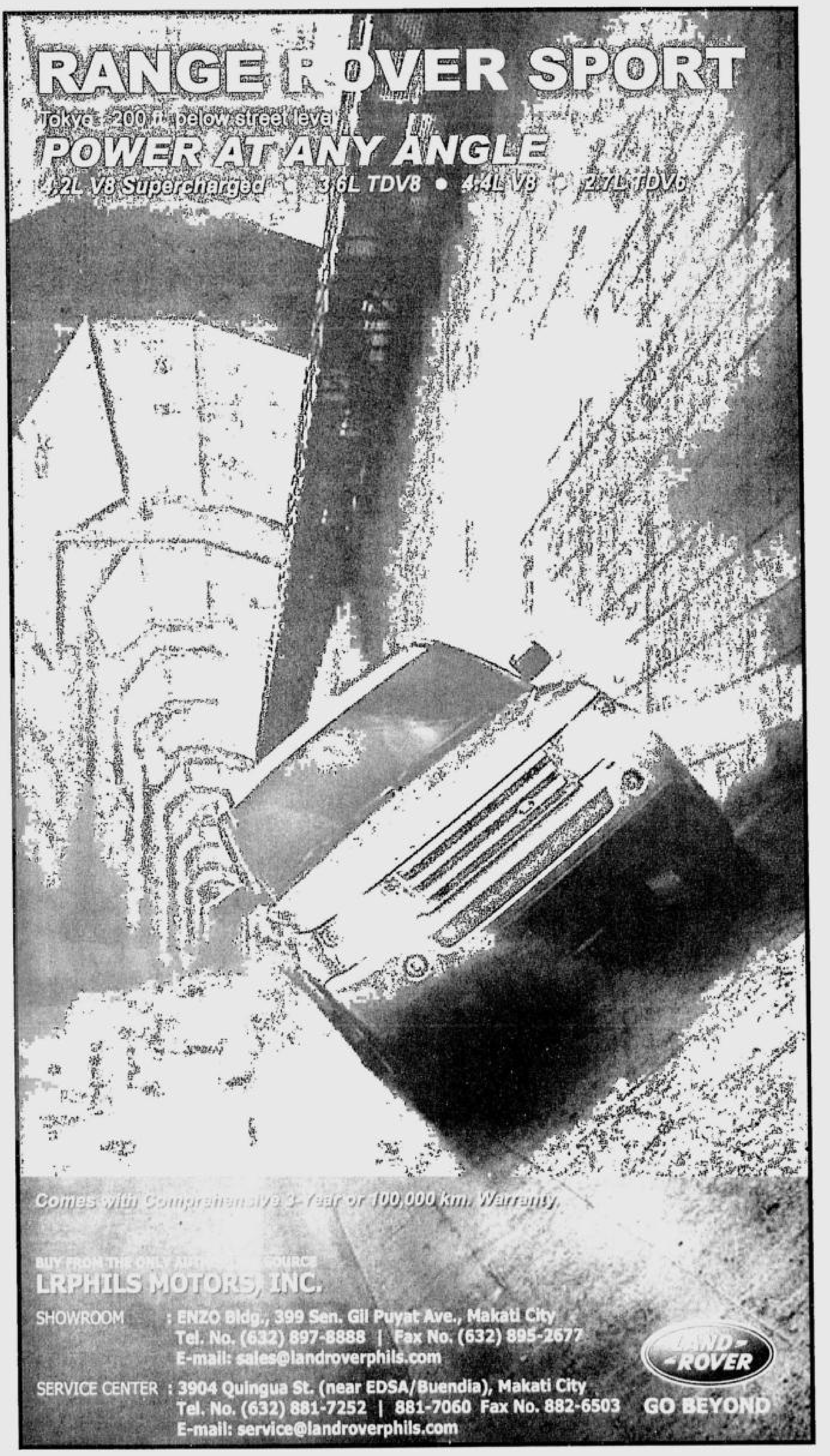
Andrade placed third in the men's single top gun event and fifth in the men's single 501.

En route to the finals, Andrade lost only to Johnny Kuczynski, the current No. 1 player in the United States and eventual winner.

Noble booked seventh place in the women's single 501 and ninth place in the women's top gun, while Ilagan took fifth place in the men's single super one and ninth place in the men's single top gun.

Apart from the Filipinos, Germans and Americans, the other teams came from Spain, Denmark, Portugal, Slovenia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan, which fielded the biggest team.

The Filipino darters were sanctioned by the Darts Council of the Philippines whose secretary general, Steve B. Dorotheo, headed the RP team.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Johnson replaces Kidd in All-Star

NEW YORK—JOE JOHNSON OF THE Atlanta Hawks will replace New Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd in the All-Star Game, NBA Commissioner David Stern said on Wednesday.

An eight-times All-Star, Kidd is suffering from a back strain and is unable to play for the Eastern Conference in Sunday's game in Las Vegas.

Johnson, in his sixth NBA season, is averaging 25.1 points, 4.2 rebounds and 4.3 assists a game and will be making his first All-Star appearance.

Kidd, a 13-year point guard, is averaging 14.3 points, eight rebounds and 8.7 assists this season. *Reuters*

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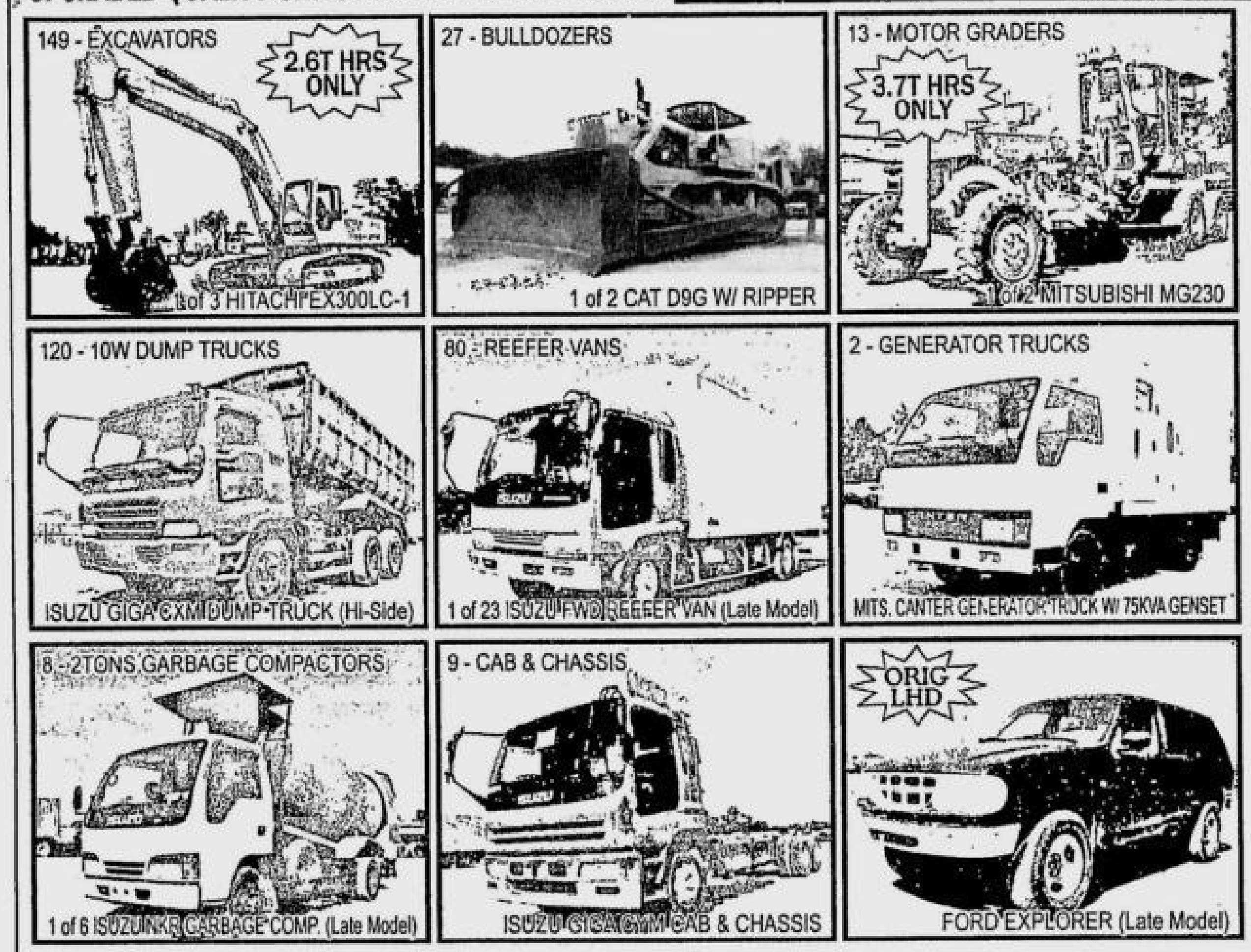
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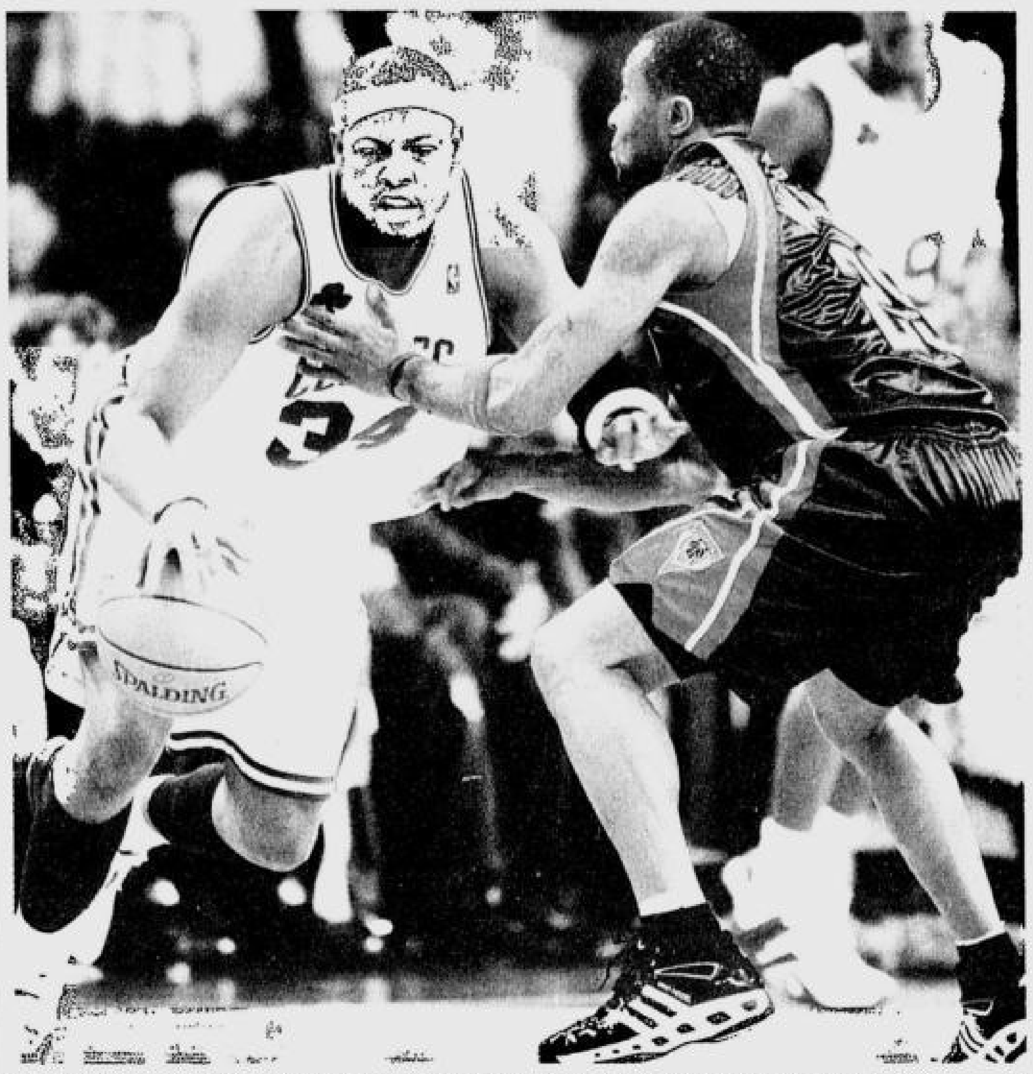

THE CELTICS' Paul Pierce (34) drives past the Bucks' Maurice Williams in the fourth quarter. AP

Celtics finally get out of rut

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS FINALLY snapped their franchise record 18-game losing streak on Wednesday with a 117-97 rout of the Milwaukee Bucks.

Paul Pierce scored 32 points to lead the Celtics, who had not won a game since Jan. 5 and were closing in on the NBA's all-time losing streak record of 24 losses.

But with a tough five-game, seven-day road trip coming up after the All-Star break, the Celtics made sure of snapping the run with an authoritative performance against the struggling Bucks.

The fans gave the Celtics a standing ovation in the final minute, as one of the NBA's most storied franchises finally ended its drought.

"The guys are in there taking monkeys off each others' backs and all that stuff. It's just a relief to get it done," Boston coach Doc Rivers told reporters.

Gerald Green added 21 points for the Celtics, who trailed by 15 points in the second quarter before taking over and cruising the rest of the way.

The Bucks are just 4-17 since losing star Michael Redd to a left knee injury.

Wally Szczerbiak returned to the Celtics lineup after missing two games and added 14 points.

The Toronto Raptors won their eighth straight home game as seven players scored in double-digits in a 120-109 win over the injury-plagued New Jersey Nets.

Tim Duncan scored 23 points as the San Antonio Spurs snapped the Detroit Pistons' seven-game winning streak with a 90-81 victory at The Palace at Auburn Hills.

The Charlotte Bobcats snapped a four-game losing streak as Gerald Wallace had 32 points in a 100-85 win over the Chicago Bulls.

Gilbert Arenas had 22 points as the Washington Wizards beat the Philadelphia 76ers, 92-85.

NBA on TV today

11:30 a.m.—Cleveland vs LA Lakers (replays at 4 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.)

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UN names Sharapova ambassador of goodwill

SHARAPOVA: $.1M donation

UNITED NATIONS—TENNIS world number one Maria Sharapova on Wednesday became the latest celebrity appointed goodwill ambassador of the UN Development Program (UNDP), pledging to use her charisma and fame to galvanize support for the fight against world poverty.

At a crowded news conference at UN headquarters, the 19-year-old US-based Russian star also donated $100,000 to eight UNDP recovery projects in rural communities in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine still affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

"My first step is to focus on the Chernobyl-affected region, where my family has roots," the photogenic tennis ace said. "Today, it is poverty and lack of opportunities that pose the greatest threat for young people in the Chernobyl region."

The pre-dawn blasts on April 26, 1986, at the Soviet-era Chernobyl plant, the world's worst nuclear accident, unleashed a cloud of radioactive dust that drifted over a large swath of Europe and still haunts millions of people in Ukraine and other countries.

Sharapova was born in Siberia and spent two years there after her family fled the Belarus city of Gomel in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. In 1995, she left Russia for the United States.

Other UNDP goodwill ambassadors are Crown Prince Haakon Magnus of Norway, Japanese actress Misako Konno and soccer stars Ronaldo of Brazil, Zinedine Zidane of France and Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast. *AFP*

Roddick smashes way to victory

SAN JOSE—TOP SEED ANDY Roddick smashed his way into the second round of the San Jose Open on Wednesday with a 7-5 6-1 victory over Canadian Frank Dancevic. The American, chasing his third title in San Jose in three years, hit top form after a tight first set to book a clash with compatriot Sam Querrey. Second seed James Blake made light work of Russian Igor Kunitsyn, winning, 6-3 6-2, to set up a clash with big-serving Croat Ivo Karlovic. Defending champion Andy Murray survived a scare to reach the quarterfinals with a 6-0 6-7 6-4 win over Dane Kristian Pless. Fifth seed Mardy Fish crushed Russian Teimuraz Gabashvili, 6-3, 6-2, and also advanced. *Reuters*

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'06 remittances surge 19.4% to hit $12.8B

Rising demand for OFWs continue to spur inflows

INDICATORS

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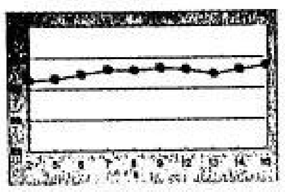

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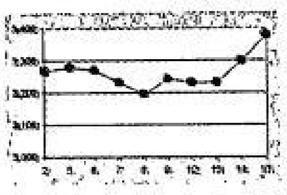
STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS SENT HOME BY overseas workers through the banking system surged by 19.4 percent in 2006 to hit a record-high of $12.8 billion as more Filipinos continued to find work abroad.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that monthly remittances breached the $1-billion mark for the eighth straight month, with inflows from overseas workers hitting an all-time monthly high of $1.3 billion in December.

December is when most Filipinos abroad send money back to the country in time for the holidays.

The full-year OFW inflows exceeded by $500 million the BSP's own forecast of $12.3 billion.

"The strong inflows of cash remittances, which have been in excess of the billion-dollar level for the (preceding) eight

'06 REMITTANCES/ B2

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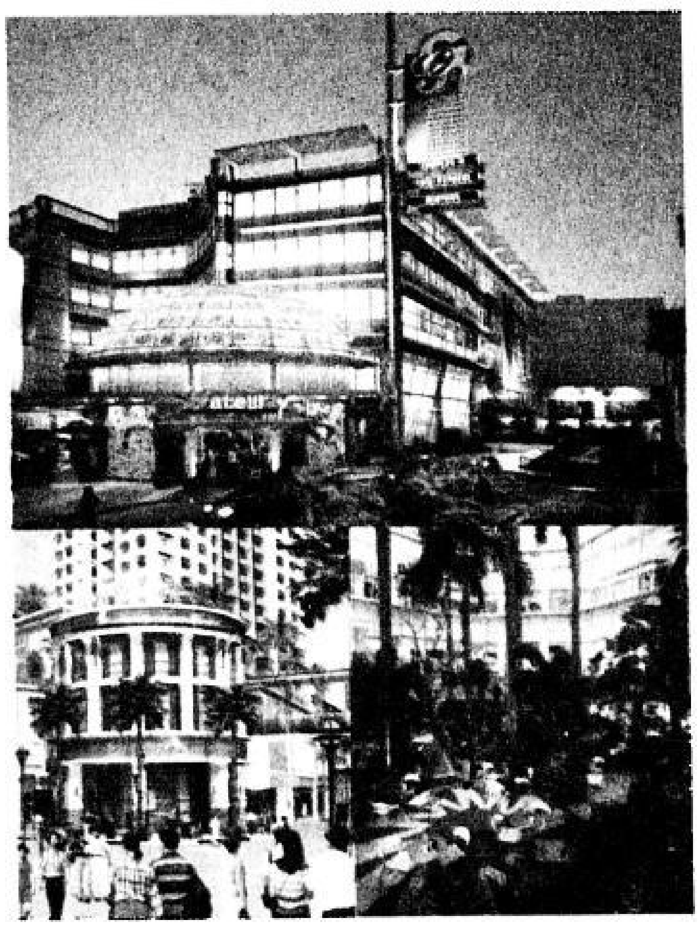

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FirstPac seeks shareholders' OK

PTIC bid seen as an opportunity to increase interest in PLDT

By Riza T. Olchondra

FIRST PACIFIC CO. LTD.'S INDEpendent board committee has urged shareholders to support the firm's planned acquisition of 111,415 shares of Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC), the Hong Kong-based company said in separate disclosures to the exchanges here and in Hong Kong.

The PTIC shares, which are held by the government, correspond to a 6.4-percent indirect stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

In the disclosures, the company said, "First Pacific considers the acquisition an attractive opportunity to increase its economic interest in PLDT, one of the principal assets of First Pacific. The directors of First Pacific consider the terms of the acquisition fair and reasonable and in the interests of the shareholders."

In the same disclosures, the company said the acquisition would be funded by "a combination of internal resources and third-party financing."

On Wednesday, FirstPac wholly-owned subsidiary Metro Pacific Asset Holdings and the Philippine government signed a conditional sale and purchase agreement for the state's PTIC shares for P25.2 billion.

Metro Pacific also agreed to deposit P12.6 billion in an escrow account.

The agreement must be approved by the shareholders of First Pacific, Sara Cheung, the conglomerate's spokesperson, said in a phone interview.

The company hopes to complete the transaction on or before March 2 after getting the shareholders' approval in a special meeting on Feb. 28. Metro Pacific will then have until March 8 to pay in full.

If Metro Pacific would not pay by March 8, the conditional agreement will be automatically terminated and the PTIC shares would be awarded to Singapore's Parallax Venture Fund, which submitted the highest bid for the PTIC shares at a public auction in December.

The government auctioned the PTIC shares after the Supreme Court awarded them to the state as part of a long-running battle to recover wealth illegally amassed by former pPresident Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

Union Bank nets ₱2.5B

THE ABOITIZ GROUP'S UNION Bank of the Philippines posted a net profit of P2.51 billion in 2006, 8.8 percent lower than the year-ago level.

The profit decline was due to one-time expenses related to Union Bank's purchase of International Exchange Bank.

Net income for the fourth quarter amounted to P885 million, 5.6 percent higher than the P838 million posted in the same period in 2005, UnionBank said in a press statement yesterday.

Revenue grew by 21 percent to P2.3 billion during the period, as interest differential income increased by more than half.

UnionBank's core earnings—referring to net revenue less trading gains and miscellaneous items—expanded by 40.4 percent to P4.6 billion in 2006 from P3.3 billion in the same period in 2005.

Interest differential income went up by 40.3 percent to P3.8 billion as loan portfolio tripled.

Doris C. Dumlao

ENTREPRENEURIAL LAB AUGUST DELA CUZ

Taipan John Gokongwei and his wife, Elizabeth, lead the blessing and inauguration of the "entrepreneurial lab," called the John Gokongwei School of Management Student Enterprise Center, on the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City. The "lab" is a mini-mall that will serve as a venue for business students of Ateneo to start their ventures.

Coal-to-fuels project proponent to sign 4 deals

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER COMMITTING TO INITIALly invest $6.6 million, American firm Headwaters Inc. will be signing four agreements with local partner H&WB Corp. to finally start the second of the three-phase coal-to-fuels project that they are working on.

The project was estimated to cost $2.8 billion. Phase 1 of the project, which involved the preparation of the feasibility study, has already been completed. Phase 3 will involve the construction of a commercial-sized coal-to-liquid fuels facility.

According to Antonio Ver, president of local development partner H&WB, the four agreements to be signed in mid-March included the Phase 2 program contract, the Fischer-Tropsch co-development agreement, the technology- as-equity investment agreement, and the direct coal liquefaction and design/technical services agreement.

The program contract covers the entire second stage of the project—the process engineering design of the preliminary front-end and engineering design, technology licensing and the construction of the Fischer-Tropsch Process Demonstration, the facility that turns coal into liquid fuels.

The Fischer-Tropsch co-development agreement will ensure that all existing and future improvements, as well as new intellectual property rights, will belong to Headwaters.

However, Headwaters and H&WB "are willing to share license revenue from the first 100,000 barrels per day commercial capacity at 25 percent of the cash value of the license revenue collected as return of investment to the FT-PDU program contributor/investor, excluding US government funding agency grants."

Gokongwei firms post hefty profit growths

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GOKONGWEIS' UNIVERSAL Robina Corp., manufacturer of snack foods and beverage products, yesterday reported a 388-percent increase in profit in the quarter ending December 2006 to P3.6 billion from year-ago's P739 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, company senior vice president Bach Sebastian said this was mainly due to gains from the sale of URC shares in sister firm Robinsons Land Corp.

Sebastian said that on a recurring basis, URC's net income after tax in the three-month period—the first quarter of its fiscal year 2007 that started last October—hit P1.03 billion, or 40 percent higher than year-ago level.

In the same period, the Gokongwei group's property arm, Robinsons Land, reported a 44-percent rise in profit in the same quarter to P607 million from year-ago's P422 million.

RLC said its gross revenue hit P2.066 billion for October to December, up 20 percent from last year's P1.72 billion.

RLC said its income from operations rose by 20 percent to P740 million in the quarter under review, from last year's P615 million. The commercial centers division pitched P830.8 million to the gross revenue, equivalent to 40 percent of the total, while rental revenue amounted to P800 million, up from year-ago's P778 million. The company said rental growth and strong retail income from space offered to call centers fueled the growth.

In the meantime, snack foods and beverage firm URC said consolidated net sales for the quarter amounted to P9.2 billion, up from year-ago's P9.1 billion.

The beverage business grew by 64.3 percent in terms of value and 82 percent in terms of volume. This was attributed to a 100-percent growth in value and 76-percent increase in volume of URC's C2 green tea sales.

Revenue from the snack food business was down 1.5 percent due to a shortage in the supply of potato flakes.

CURRENCIES

February 15, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.761557	1.000000	48.4540
Japan	Yen	0.006306	0.008280	0.4012
United Kingdom	Pound	1.494859	1.962900	95.1104
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097469	0.127987	6.2015
Switzerland	Franc	0.614258	0.806582	39.0821
Canada	Dollar	0.653809	0.858516	41.5985
Singapore	Dollar	0.495547	0.650703	31.5292
Australia	Dollar	0.596364	0.783085	37.9436
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.020205	2.652731	128.5354
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203223	0.266852	12.9300
Brunei	Dollar	0.493940	0.648593	31.4269
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000110	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022883	0.030048	1.4559
UAE	Dirham	0.207367	0.272294	13.1937
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.313100	63.6249
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.001066	0.0517
China	Yuan**	0.098171	0.128908	6.2461
Argentina	Peso	0.245862	0.322841	15.6429
Brazil	Real	0.362819	0.476417	23.0843
Denmark	Kroner	0.134192	0.176208	8.5380
India	Rupee	0.017335	0.022763	1.1030
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217744	0.285919	13.8539
Mexico	New Peso	0.069756	0.091596	4.4382
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528125	0.693481	33.6019
South Africa	Rand	0.106200	0.139451	6.7570
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023092	0.030322	1.4692

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time—Feb. 14, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Feb. 14, 2007

'06 remittances . . .

From page B1

months, can be traced mainly to the higher deployment of Filipino workers abroad and to financial institutions' adoption of innovative ways to improve delivery of financial services and enhance their infrastructure to reach a greater number of overseas Filipinos and their subsidiaries," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The BSP estimated that the total inflows for the year, including those channeled outside the banking system, ranged from $13 to $14 billion.

Citing preliminary 2006 data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on new hires and rehires, Tetangco said the total deployment for the year reached 1.1 million, or 10.5 percent, higher than the level in 2005.

He said this reflected the "increased demand for Filipino workers."

During the year, the number of land-based workers deployed went up by 12.2 percent to 831,318. The number of sea-faring workers also grew 5.2 percent, or 260,737.

Tetangco said banks and non-bank remittance companies had likewise heeded the BSP's call to make the delivery of remittances faster, safer and more efficient.

For 2007, the BSP expects remittances coursed through the banking system to grow by another 10 percent.

Total remittances, including inflows coursed outside banking channels, are seen to expand by 5 percent over 2006, hitting another record high.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 15, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	8.5	10.5	8.5	10.25	1,088,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	62	65.5	62	64	5,367,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	71	70	71	1,875,700
China Banking Corp.	820	890	820	890	24,490
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	38	38	38	38	2,400
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.52	20,710,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	109	119	109	118	372,560
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	66	68	66	68	7,716,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	53	53	53	53	1,000
Philippine National Bank	49.5	53	49.5	53	190,200
Phil. Savings Bank	58	60	58	60	6,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	43	43	42.5	42.5	708,900
Security Bank Corp.	80	81.5	80	81.5	744,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	65	66.5	65	66	61,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.69	0.73	0.69	0.73	630,000
Citiseconline Com Inc.	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.5	3,253,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	35	35	34	35	4,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1630	1630	1630	460
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.98	2.06	1.98	2	1,330,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	500	550	500	540	132,270
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2125	2145	2125	2145	1,820
Ivantage Corp.	1.66	1.74	1.68	1.74	3,833,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	45,441,000
First Gen Corp.	57	59	57	58.5	2,487,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	82	82.5	81	82	707,100
Manila Electric Co. A	80	80	78	78.5	256,300
Manila Electric Co. B	80	80	79	79.5	998,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	4,190,000
Petron Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.65	6,635,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.3	9,450,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.3	3,013,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.85	632,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	25,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	71,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	45	48	45	48	1,350,600
RFM Corp.	1.44	1.6	1.44	1.52	2,486,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	759,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.46	0.49	3,730,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	65	65	144,100
San Miguel Corp. B	79	79	76.5	76.5	264,500
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.8	4.2	3.8	4.2	80,000
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	653,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.75	18.25	18.5	5,091,500
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.72	1.74	1.68	1.68	19,394,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.5	4.65	4.5	4.5	1,521,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.05	41,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	6,856,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.4	584,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	10,962,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.69	90,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.31	109,810,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.55	50,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	529,500,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	27,200,000
Ayala Corp.	640	660	640	660	81,460
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.72	0.83	0.72	0.83	7,990,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8.3	8.3	8	8.2	14,385,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	4.7	4.7	4	4	2,087,000
AJO.Net Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	41,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.2	1,098,000
APC Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	18,910,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	24,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.26	3,909,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6,000
Pal Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.65	3.55	3.55	143,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.48	1.8	1.48	1.68	1,296,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10	16,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.15	13,326,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.6	3,679,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,296,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	150,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,320,000
House of Investments Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	643,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.25	3,529,200
Keppel Holdings	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	82,000
Keppel Holdings B	2	2	1.54	1.54	353,000
Medco Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,180,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.6	840,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	6.6	7.3	6.6	7	6,635,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.22	2.38	2.18	2.32	6,967,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.25	5,300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.73	550,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.17	9,610,000
SM Investments Corp.	390	402.5	390	400	827,420
South China Resources Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.16	1.22	520,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	1,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	17	17.25	16.75	17.25	33,466,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	880,000
Belle Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.5	20,210,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.36	1.4	1,388,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	2	1.7	1.7	157,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,910,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc.	3.65	3.9	3.65	3.9	2,081,000
C&P Homes Inc.	2.48	2.6	2.48	2.55	804,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	3,030,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	2,090,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.74	0.77	0.74	0.76	48,240,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	85,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.065	0.0675	0.065	0.0675	3,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.72	142,719,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	100,000
Interport Res.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	164,700,000
Interport Res. B	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	81,500,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	3,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.9	5,630,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	3,100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	3.1	3.2	3	3.15	75,499,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.1	677,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	23,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	19	20.5	19	19.75	1,572,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.78	0.81	0.77	0.8	36,370,000
SM Development Corp.	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.05	7,294,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	8,581,500
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.65	710,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	2,750,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	256,400
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	215,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	2	2.06	2	2	22,557,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1375	1400	1375	1385	9,900
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.1	10,111,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2590	2620	2590	2620	224,560
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.36	34,650,000
Diversified Fin. Network	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	21,100,000
Ionics Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	136,000
IPVG Corp.	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.9	764,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	9,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	11,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.38	2.38	2.34	2.34	573,000
Philweb Corp.	0.036	0.039	0.036	0.039	1,129,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	195,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	12,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	26	26	26	26	76,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1.04	1.14	1.04	1.14	315,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	16,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.22	2.65	2.22	2.65	22,390,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.87	0.88	0.85	0.85	3,530,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,000
Far Eastern University	820	820	820	820	20
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	62,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.8	2.9	2.65	2.65	9,562,000
Paxys Inc.	27	27.5	27	27	500,600
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	40	40	40	40	9,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	1,512,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	613,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	266,200,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	859,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.75	12	11.75	12	46,700
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	7,000
Geograce Res. Phil., Inc.	1.16	1.28	1.12	1.26	139,136,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	27,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	4,450,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	172,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	38,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	412,900,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4.05	4.05	3.95	4.05	6,415,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.75	457,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	1,540,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.24	1.34	1.22	1.32	15,164,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3,240,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	706,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,500,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	193,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	142,000

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NISSAN

BIR income tax take in 2006 fell short of target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue's income tax collection in 2006 fell short of target, partly due to declining interest rates and the drop in the volume of issued government securities.

BIR documents showed that income tax collected last year hit just P376.5 billion, P24.8 billion short of the goal last year of P401.3 billion.

But the tax take last year was up P53.1 billion from the P323.4 billion recorded in 2005.

The increase was attributed to the government's move to increase the corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent.

The hike in the corporate income tax rate was provided by the VAT Reform law, implemented in November 2005, which raised the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent and expanded the list of products and services covered by VAT.

Income tax paid by corporate taxpayers accounted for the bulk of the BIR's total income tax collection in 2006.

Income tax collected by the BIR from these taxpayers reached P196 billion, up from P156.2 billion in 2005 but short of P199-billion target.

The income tax collected last year from individual taxpayers hit P129.9 billion, up from the P115.9 billion recorded the previous year and slightly higher than the P129.7-billion goal.

Collection of tax on income from bank deposits and investments in government securities hit only P50.6 billion.

This was lower than the P72.5 billion goal and the P51.3 billion collected in 2005.

While observers point to revenue leakages resulting from inefficient tax administration and corruption as reasons for the BIR's underperformance, the tax agency's officials stressed that factors beyond its control also had to do with last year's shortfall.

"We (BIR) were affected by factors like lower interest rates and reduced volume of government securities. But if you compare our performance from a year-ago, you would see there is growth," Assistant Commissioner Nestor Valeros, head of the BIR's large taxpayers division, said last Tuesday.

Lower interest rate adversely affects the BIR's collection of tax on income from bank deposits, he explained.

Interest rates have been declining, with the 91-day Treasury bill rate recently hitting an all-time low of 3 percent.

The government has also cut down on the issuance of government securities such as treasury bills because it does not need as much cash as it used to.

Convergys to open new call center in Cebu

By Daxim L. Lucas

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) firm Convergys Corp. will open its eighth call center facility in the Philippines in Cebu City as demand for voice-based services continues to grow worldwide.

Convergys executive vice president Clint Streit said the facility would employ as many as 700 new employees, adding to the 500 staffers already employed by the firm at its pioneer Cebu office.

In a briefing in Makati City, the visiting Convergys official also unveiled plans to set up another call center facility in the Visayas, possibly in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

"We are looking at several sites, and Bacolod is one of the candidates," he said, adding that the new call center would initially employ 450-500 call center agents.

Convergys is one of the largest call center firms in the country, with a staffing compliment of approximately 10,000 employees, which provide services ranging from credit card welcome and activation to case management and technical support for business-to-business and business-to-consumer uses.

Streit said the Cebu facility would become operational late in the first quarter of 2007, while the final decision on whether to locate what would be the firm's ninth call center in Bacolod would be made either in the fourth quarter of 2007 or the first quarter of 2008.

On the average, it costs the company anywhere between $8,000 and $10,000 a seat—along with all support facilities—when setting up a call center facility.

According to the Convergys official, the Philippines has become the best performing country in the firm's portfolio of operations worldwide, even beating the output of its investments in India, which is the acknowledged world leader in the BPO business.

"The Philippines is the most profitable area for Convergys worldwide, so we will continue to support our operations and expansion activities here," Streit said, although he declined to predict the full extent of the firm's expansion program beyond the Bacolod site.

In particular, he pointed out that 2006 was a record year for Convergys' Philippine operations, and for the entire group, thanks to the revenues generated by its local facilities.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Feb. 13, 2007	Last Week Feb. 06, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.62107	1.61663
Managed Fund - Peso	1.86868	1.87246
Growth Fund - Peso	1.75199	1.77062
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3638	1.3687

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
	Feb. 12, 2007	Feb. 5, 2007
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Balanced Fund	1.387994	1.397255
Equity Fund	1.602012	1.631253

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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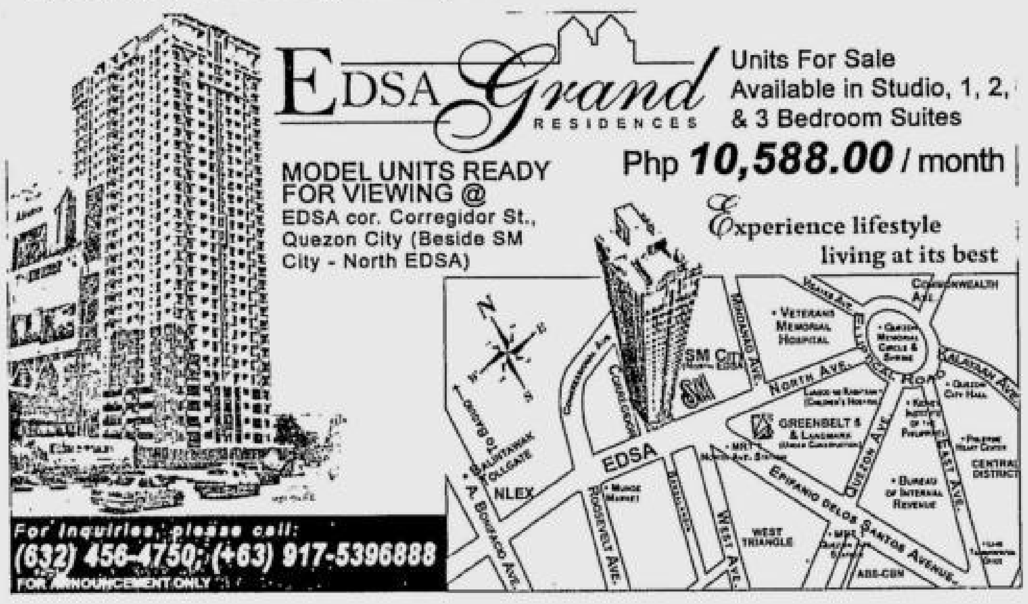
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Alliance Global Group, Inc.

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AS OF 15 FEBRUARY 2007

Alliance Global Group, Inc. ("AGI" or the "Company") is offering for subscription (the "Offer") 2,205,181,000 common shares (the "Rights Shares") at an Exercise Price of P1.50 per Rights Share to existing shareholders of record as of 15 February 2007 (the "Record Date") at the proportion of 1 Rights Share for every 1 Common Share held.

The Offer Period shall be from 23 February 2007 to 12:00 noon of 01 March 2007. The Application to Subscribe form shall be delivered or mailed to all stockholders as of Record Date. All duly accomplished subscription documents and payment for 50% of your total subscription price should be submitted to designated branches of Equitable PCI Bank before the end of the Offer Period. The balance shall be payable in full on the 45th day (April 23, 2007) or the 90th day (June 7, 2007) after the Listing Date, at the option of the stockholders.

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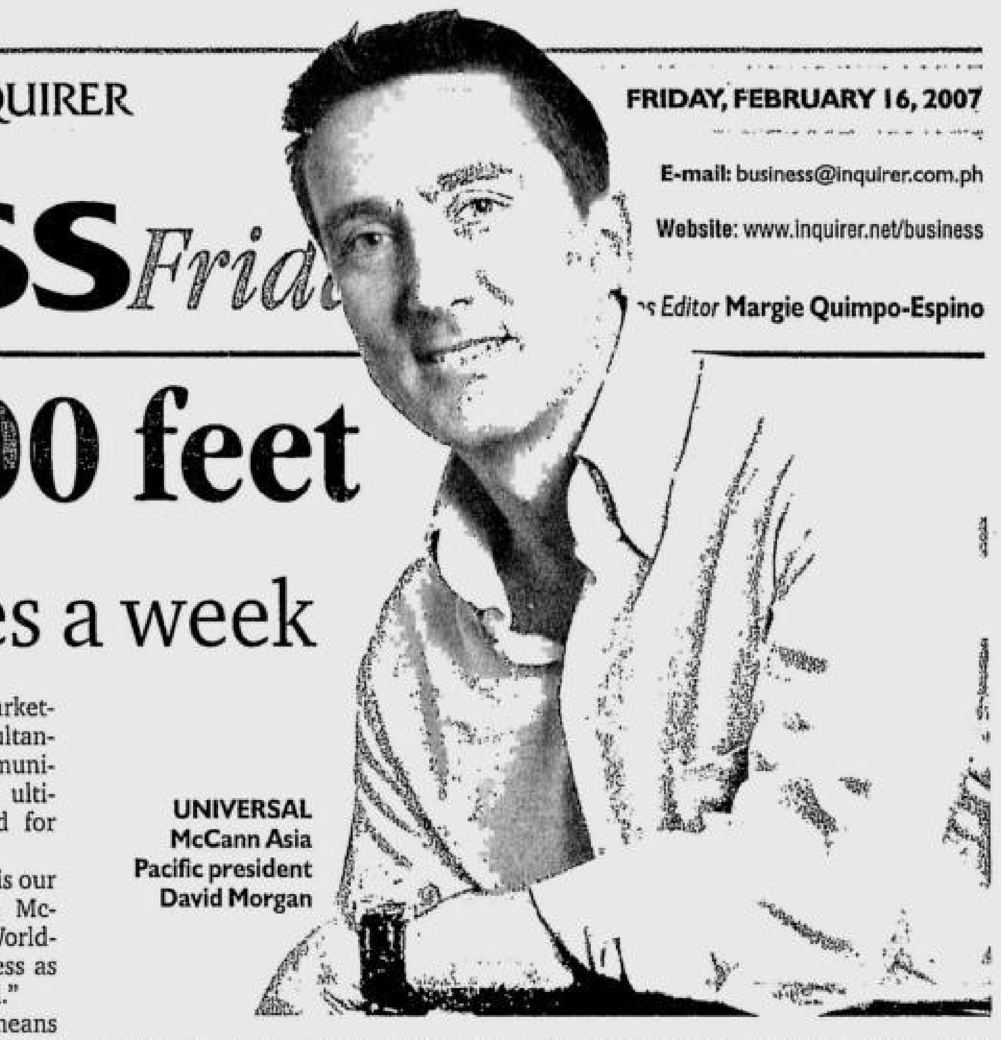


UNIVERSAL McCann Asia Pacific president David Morgan

By Raquel P. Gomez

UNIVERSAL MCCANN PRESIDENT FOR Asia Pacific David Morgan says he has been living literally at 30,000 feet above ground.

Since joining the planning and buying arm of McCann Worldgroup in September 2006, the advertising executive has been flying to an average of two countries a week, extensively touring UM's Asia Pacific operations.

So far he has been to 95 percent of the 12 active markets of UM in the region to meet UM teams and to "appreciate and understand the McCann brand in each of the countries."

Morgan describes UM's presence in the region as having different levels of maturity in each country with China now becoming a particular area of focus to develop its business.

Because of China's size and scale and rapid development, UM has a big task "to mature our offer in China," says Morgan. "We lacked leadership in the shorter term and we are now appointing senior leadership to drive our proposition in China," he says.

In India, Australia, Japan and the Philippines, UM's presence is very strong.

UM enjoys the No. 3 position as a media organization in Australia, while in India UM partnered with Loadstar Universal, India's local media organization.

In Japan, UM is the largest international agency, while in Hong Kong, UM enjoys good relationship with a number of big players such as Cathay Pacific.

In the Philippines, Morgan says UM has strong presence as part of the McCann Worldgroup Philippines, the largest marketing communications network in the country.

"In the last three months I've been touring, I've seen and recognized that there is a massive potential for us (to be successful) in many different countries," says Morgan, who was set to visit UM in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Morgan's chief responsibility as the new guy at UM's Asia Pacific operations is to make "McCann" a much stronger media brand and media identity.

"Whereas before we may have been seen more as a media department, we wish to be more actively and aggressively known around the world as a genuine media specialist and communications company that is embracing the future."

In 2006, the McCann WorldGroup, the world's largest marketing communications network, underwent changes and adopted a new philosophy known as "Demand Creation" to respond to the changing marketplace.

With the new thinking, the group evolved into a multi-faceted marketing communications company composed of different disciplines—from advertising to media planning and buying (which UM handles), from relationship marketing to activation, from brand consultancy to PR, and even specialized communications for healthcare—with the ultimate aim of stimulating demand for marketer's products and services.

"The unique selling point of UM is our interdependence model with the McCann Worldgroup. The McCann Worldgroup is fundamental to our success as we are fundamental to them as well."

"We have our autonomy and it means that we are investing on a wholesale global level, regionally and locally into our entire product. UM is able to receive unique investments not just the dollar or tools or trade, but more structure and benefit from resource. What we have is a mandate and a platform where we talk about the 'next thing now.' It's the mentality that we are propagating throughout the world and throughout every part of our operation."

Morgan, who admits his honeymoon period in joining the new company was over in 10 minutes, says UM teams around the region are embracing the changes with enthusiasm.

"The culture of UM in Asia Pacific is of genuine and heartfelt enthusiasm for the change. We've had some bumpy times in the past. We've lost our key global clients, but we've had a lot of very trusted and very solid operators who are very true media professionals who saw us through that phase. We've put money in investing in new talents as well. What you now see is a much stronger organization emerging, an organization in essence is still young and able to change."

Morgan, who has spent much of his life and work in Asia in various capacities in other media companies prior to joining UM, says the challenges faced by UM in the region concerns adjusting rapidly to the new media spawned by new technologies, particularly the digital media. UM is also faced by the new type of consumer who is now driving his own agenda rather the other way around in the traditional advertising. He adds UM will in eventuality decrease the size of its traditional media planning in order to increase in the new areas of communications.

"One of the things that we would bring in is an investment in the kind of areas clients are looking for. We know that the traditional model of reach and frequency is predominantly dead, but not for some. Our investment is behind digital media and alongside that, content too. Clients no longer want a 30-second ad. Consumers are making appointments with consumption of commercial messages. Consumers are accessing different channels of communications, especially mobile channels. Our planning expertise has to address that."

Morgan finds the Philippines as a "refreshing" market that is always able to "embrace change and be progressive." He says the people here have the ability to adapt to change and introduce new thinking

Born in the UK, Morgan began his career in London at BBJ Media. In 1995, he joined J Walter Thompson in Shanghai as media director, moving to MindShare as general manager in Hong Kong and Japan until 2000. He also spent four years as managing director at Euro RSCG in Hong Kong. His last stint before UM was with Mediaedge as CEO Asia Pacific.

Asia's consumer in the ascendancy

SINGAPORE—BUSINESS IS FANTASTIC, laughs Andy Sophian, a sales executive at an auto dealership in Singapore.

Like many car retailers in Asia, his firm is benefiting from a pick-up in consumer spending that is expected to strengthen due to robust job markets, rising incomes and strong economies.

"The trend is more people buying cars in cash," Sophian said. "Three, four years ago it would be quite difficult to see people buying with cash and it shows that they are wealthier."

Motor vehicle sales, a proxy of consumer spending, powered a jump in retail sales in Singapore and Hong Kong in late 2006.

But car sales are just one sign that retail spending is on the rise after a relatively subdued second half of 2006 and, with the exception of South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand, consumers are set to bolster economic growth across Asia this year.

That will please policymakers who want household consumption to increase in order to reduce their economies' reliance on investment and exports.

By end-2008, domestic demand will contribute about 70 percent to economic growth in Asia excluding Japan, versus about 50 percent in 2006, says Lehman Brothers economist Rob Subbaraman.

Yet household spending is likely to trot rather than gallop ahead, partly because a slowdown in exports may dampen sentiment.

"Consumer spending is indeed in a rising trend, but it can rise much faster," said Yuwa Hedrick-Wong, an adviser for Asia Pacific at MasterCard International.

"This is because in the past several years the contribution to economic growth from private household consumption in many markets has actually been less than overall growth itself."

Some countries face obstacles. In Thailand, it's political uncertainty.

In Singapore, the sales tax is expected to rise this year and that may dampen spending.

Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and the Philippines need to see more of their workforce shift away from agriculture if consumption is to play a bigger part in economic growth over the long term, analysts say.

"In order to have domestic consumption that supports the economy, you've got to have a substantial amount of people working in things other than as cheap farm labor," said Kristian Gotthelf, a researcher at Bangkok University.

The outlook for consumer spending is brighter than a few months ago.

Hong Kong retail sales in December saw their fastest annual growth since January 2006 and Edwin Ing, executive director of Asian luxury goods retailer Dickson Concepts (International) Ltd, says consumer spending has been firm across its product range.

"The growth (in consumer spending) has been driven by the improvement in economic conditions in Hong Kong as well as the sharp rise in the Hong Kong stock market," he said.

The motorcycle market in Indonesia—where it is a barometer of consumer spending—was depressed for much of 2006 by high fuel prices and interest rates, but sales picked up strongly at the end of the year and this January they were 29 percent higher than a year earlier.

In Taiwan, imports of consumer goods in January rose 15.7 percent from a year earlier to $1.52 billion, recovering from declines from September to December.

Job prospects across Asia are getting better and incomes are rising, bolstering consumer confidence and spending.

Asian workers will enjoy the highest pay rises in the world in 2007, according to a survey by human resources firm ECA International.

Workers in India are set to enjoy the sharpest jump in real wages, followed by those in Indonesia and China.

"I know I have the spending power, so if I see something I like, although the prices are steeper than when I was a student, it doesn't really matter," Gina Myung, a 23-year old Korean working in Singapore.

Raman Mangalorkar, head of consumer and retail practice in Asia at consultancy A.T. Kearny, says consumer spending in India may be about to take off.

"Once you hit about $800-$1,000 a year in disposable income, that's a threshold in India where you will start to see significant increases in spending," he said.

"At the moment, it's about $450. If look at urban areas, you will find a segment where it has already crossed this threshold."

All this has not gone unnoticed by global firms.

CapitaLand Ltd., Southeast Asia's biggest property firm, has acquired a 65 percent stake in six retail malls in China worth $167 million.

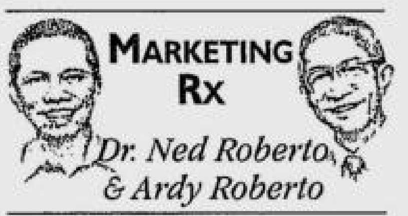
Britain's Vodafone Group Plc has just offered $11.1 billion for a controlling stake in India's Hutchison Essar, which would give it a strong foothold in the world's fastest growing mobile phone market.

Analysts feel the optimism may well be justified.

"We are hitting an inflection point with consumer spending and it will accelerate," said Mangalorkar, referring to India.

Reuters

What to do with ad budgets when sales are down



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

QUESTION: HOW DO WE DECIDE on our advertising budget? As they say, you spend what you earn. In 2006, one of our brands performed poorly. So this year, its ad budget is very small, so small that it's impossible to support production of a TV material. How should we address this problem?

A: First, resolve for the New Year that you will no longer make marketing decisions according to "rules of thumb." Rules of thumb are convenient decision shortcuts that enable us to cope with difficulties including decision challenges. But when they are based on assumptions that are no longer current, they obviously lead to wrong decisions.

This is true when deciding on your advertising budget as a percentage of your sales.

The rule of thumb is: "When sales go up, up goes your ad budget as well. When sales rise, down goes the ad budget as well." Most of the time, it's the reversal of the rule that is appropriate.

When sales go down, that's when your product needs more support from your advertising to help move up sales.

Remember, advertising is one of your marketing mix tools for generating sales. Advertising is a means. Sales is an end. When you say the ad budget should be a percentage of sales, you're saying the end should determine the means.

As one of your sales generators, any specific ad campaign has marketing functions you want it to perform, like raise your brand awareness by so much, brand image rating by so much and purchase intention for your brand by so much.

You have norms or you can get industry norms for each of these functions and you can benchmark on how much an average ad campaign will cost to undertake each of those functions.

This is the more logical basis for deciding on your ad budget.

Q: How do we properly segment the market for our products when the buyers are mothers but the end users are their children? Whose (product priority) value do we prioritize?

A: Your product category represents the case where the decision-maker or the buyer is one person, namely the mother, while the end-user is another, namely the child. It's a family product and not an individual product.

Marketing 101 tells us that in such a case, you should respect the differing priorities of your two consumers, the buyer and the end-user.

Take the case of Sustagen when it was relaunched in the early 90s to compete against Milo and Ovaltine. Sustagen's research revealed that it was in exactly the same situation as your product. The decision-maker and buyer was the Mom. The end-user was the child. The same research showed that the priority value of Mom for the chocolate drink of her child was "nutrition" while "taste" was a secondary value. The child's priority was almost exclusively for a "yummy taste." To the child what was yummy must be nutritious.

So what does Marketing 101 mean when it says you ought to respect these differing (and in this case, diametrically opposed) priority values? That simply means that in your communication with Mom, you support and reinforce her priority favoring nutrition. And that's exactly what the Sustagen TV ad campaign did. It converted the TV into a nutritionist who announced that she's better off giving her child Sustagen with its 23 "resistensya (resistance) builders." On the other hand, in its communication with the child, another TV ad talked to the child about Susy and Geno who told the child how to concoct his or her own tasty Sustagen shake.

Was that the right move? Marketing 101's recommended GMP (Good Marketing Practice) was vindicated.

Q: My daughter, who's taking up Integrated Marketing Communications, surprised me when she said the 4Ps are out and 4Cs are in.

Here's the correspondence: product, out; consumer values, in; price, out; consumer costs, in; place, out; convenience, in; promotion, out; communication, in.

Is this true? What's this 4Cs concept?

A: That's one of the things daughters are for: to surprise us. Sometimes, they surprise us with the truth and a new reality.

But the 4Ps and the 4Cs are basically the same. Both are about the marketing mix. The 4Ps are the marketing mix components seen from the marketer's perspective, the marketer's decision tools for generating sales. On the other hand, the 4Ps are the marketing mix components now seen from the consumer's perspective, the consumer's decision considerations for making purchases. Remember, consumer purchases equal marketer sales.

The concept of the 4Cs as the consumer-centric marketing mix came when the "marketing concept" became and was accepted as the single most fundamental marketing principle. This concept simply said this: "In planning or implementing any marketing program, be it a product intro, pricing, an ad campaign, a consumer promo, or even a trade promo, a sales distribution program, never start from where you (as the marketer) are. Always start from where the consumers are."

This is not of course saying that if you do marketing according to the 4Ps, you will go wrong. If your specific 4P decisions converge with where the consumers are with each of your 4Ps, then your marketing mix will still work. It is when there is divergence between the two that the 4P-driven marketing mix or program will fail or won't get results as good as when convergence is present.

Just consider our Sustagen example above. The marketer-driven 4Ps was thinking of choosing between the Moms and the children as alternative PTM segments. That's because the Sustagen positioning will be different if the PTM segment is the Moms and if it's the children. Looking at the marketing decisions from a consumer-driven 4Cs told us that the PTM segment decision is not a choice between alternatives. The two segments are the PTM segment because Mom will not buy a chocolate mix that's not nutritious. But the child will not drink (many or most of them won't) a chocolate mix that's not yummy. And if the child does not drink, Mom will stop buying. The problem solution is clearer and more compelling in the 4Cs problem definition than in the 4Ps specification.

Of course, the marketing reality does not always work out in favor of the consumer-driven marketing. In a previous column, we spoke of consumer-driven marketing. That's the 4P marketing or marketer-driven marketing. We've seen that with the telcos and their very successful marketing and selling of SMS services and ring tones, to mention just two. Here, it was the marketers who taught the consumers that they needed SMS to stay connected with their loved ones. Consumers didn't tell the telcos that they have a need for SMS. The process didn't start there. It started with the marketers. And when the consumers finally learned what the marketing telcos were teaching them, and were finally convinced, they bought and revenue literally exploded.

So tell your daughter her IMC professor is probably trying to teach through shock value through exaggeration. Tell her not to go for a half-truth but instead go for the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help us God!

Email us your questions, comments or requests for soft-copies of MarketingRx to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net . God bless!

Sweet sorghum for biofuel

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IN THE PHILIPPINES TODAY, THERE IS great demand for biofuels.

This is due to the recently passed Biofuels Law, which requires the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, thus reducing the country's dependence on imported fuel.

As provided by law, gasoline will be blended with 5-percent ethanol in two years, and 10-percent ethanol within four years.

COMMENTARY

Fortunately, car engines produced since 1970 can safely use 10-percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline.

A flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) capable of using gasoline blended with 20-percent ethanol has also been recently launched in the country.

Today, research is being undertaken to produce fuel-efficient vehicles using 85 percent ethanol.

It is clear, therefore, that there will be great demand for biofuels.

As to the supply, we wrote about how jatropha can be a profitable source of biofuel, and can be easily planted between coconut trees.

We first heard of jatropha when Dr. Teodoro Soloysoy, Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), discussed its potential during one of the weekly meetings of the Management Association of the Philippines Agri-Business Countryside Development Foundation (MAB-CDF).

This past week, we interviewed Soloysoy on what he believed to be an equally attractive alternative to jatropha: Sweet sorghum.

Sweet sorghum is a type of grain similar to wheat and barley.

Recalling the results of the Technology Investment Forum on sweet sorghum held last Jan. 19, 2006, Soloysoy said: "Where the land in the coconut plantation is a little better, sorghum can yield more income than jatropha. Sorghum also needs less sunlight and it can also be developed into a food and feed source."

Sorghum profits

In a follow-up discussion with UP Los Baños vice chancellor Roberto Rañola, who led the sorghum team at the forum, he gave us the following annual net income picture for one hectare of sorghum.

Sweet Sorghum

	seed crop (PhP)	ratoon crop (PhP)	total (PhP)
Revenue	51,000	51,000	102,000
Cost	21,105	9,020	30,125
Net Income	29,895	41,980	71,875

He also gave credit to a co-sponsor of the forum "International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Aritropics" now headed by former DA Secretary William Dar.

Sorghum's benefits

World production of sorghum trails far behind that of the "Big Four" cereals (rice, maize, wheat and barley, in that order).

But it is agriculture's leading minor grain crop, with the harvest estimated at some 60 million tons.

About 90 percent of the area planted to sorghum is in developing countries, mainly in Africa and Asia, where it is grown generally for food by low-income farmers.

Sorghum is widely adaptable, grows rapidly, and has high sugar accumulation and biomass production potential.

This is due to its tolerance to drought, water logging, soil salinity and acid toxicity. It is a low input crop.

The cost of ethanol production from sweet sorghum per liter is low. Its ethanol has a high burning quality and octane rating.

There are six reasons why sweet sorghum is attractive: The captive market of bioethanol fuel; positive net energy balance; reduced pollution; job creation; support for energy and food security, and the essential feature of being environment friendly.

Need for technology transfer

The Coconut Industry and Investment Fund (CIIF) led by Danilo Coronacion is responsibile for the wise disposition of a large part of the coco levy funds.

Instead of giving these funds as dole-outs, they are better used as loans to coconut farmers, to encourage them to plant income-generating crops between coconut trees.

Biofuel source alternatives such as jatropha and sorghum must systematically be analyzed to provide the farmers the information regarding what crops are best under different conditions so they can make wise choices.

We will be arranging such a forum in March so that our coconut farmers can now take advantage of the combined blessings of a large biofuel market, a current lack of biofuel sources, and an abundance of coco levy funds.

In this way, we can help coconut farmers earn more income.

For more information on sweet sorghum, please text or call Assistant Director Soloysoy at 0918-991-1184.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112)

DA explores means to raise coco output

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS expressed concern that there may not be enough coconuts in the long term to meet the demand for coco-biodiesel.

Demand for coconuts is seen increasing with the passage of the Biofuels Act of 2006, which mandates the use of a 1-percent coco-biodisel blend starting July this year.

The law was passed as part of government efforts to promote renewable sources of energy and lessen dependence on foteign oil.

In an interview with the INQUIRER Business staff, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said he had ordered the conduct of a study on how the country could raise its coconut production to supply the needs of local coco-biodiesel producers.

"We'll have to see how we'll meet the feedstock demand. I'm ordering a study on this. We'll have to make a recommendation whether to delay the implementation (of the 1-percent blend) or to push through with it," he said.

Under the Biofuels Act, all diesel-fed vehicles should use a minimum 1-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law.

The mandated blend will rise to 2 percent after two years.

Since the law's IRR had yet to come out, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, the author of the law, had earlier said that the transition period could be stretched by another three months.

In a separate interview, Philippine Coconut Authority deputy administrator Carlos Carpio said some P3.1 billion in investments would have to be infused in fertilizing suitable lands and replanting these with coconuts to ensure that the mandated 1-percent blend would be sustained in the longer term.

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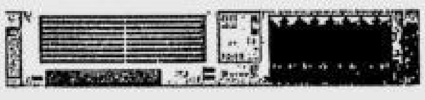

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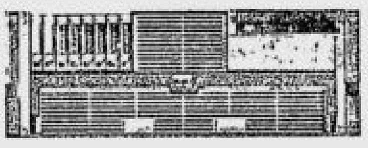

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- Two (2) Embedded Multifunction Gigabit Network Adapters with TCP/IP Offload Engine
- HP Smart Array P400/256MB Controller (RAID 0/1/5)
- Supports up to 8 SAS hard disk drives
- Integrated Lights-out server management for remote server management
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In Loving Memory

On the Fourth Death Anniversary of

GENERAL ROMEO C. ESPINO

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
and
Former Chairman-Philippine National Red Cross

December 20, 1914 - February 17, 2003

His loving wife, **Belle**; children, **Leslie** and **Diana**, **Ralph** and **Cristina**, **Maria Teresa** (†) and **Ron**, **Ricky** and **Maribelle**, **Helene** and **Tito**; grand-children, **Monica** and **Michael**, **Richard** and **Racy**, **Adelaide**, **Paolo**, **Rhoni**, **Julian**, **Nikki** and **Giancarlo**; great-grandchildren, **Francesca**, **Giana**, **David**, **Micaela** and **Rafael** request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for him tomorrow, February 17, 2007 at the following:

St. Michael's Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati	12:15 p.m.
Holy Child Chapel, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio	5:00 p.m.
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	5:15 p.m.
Our Lady of all Nations Chapel, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City	5:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati	6:00 p.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Poblacion, Makati	6:30 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:30 p.m.

Atty. Jose J. Estrella, Jr.

of Enrile, Cagayan

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 13, 2007 at the age of 70.

His wife **Rosita** (†), loving children **OLIVIA ANNE** (†), **MALOU** and **Francis**, **JOSEPH** and **Eden**, **LITO** and **Jing**, **JOEL** and **Aireen**, **JON** and **Dimples**; grandchildren **TJ**, **Dino**, **Cheska**, **Nikki**, **Patrick**, **Gio**, **Justine**, **Bianca**, **Charles** and **Anika**; brothers and sister **Henry**, **James** and **Evangeline** (†), other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Premier II, Loyola Memorial Chapels and Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 18, 2007 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 9:00 am. Mass.

LEONCIO L. GO

(Retired Editor-in-chief
United Daily News)

Peacefully joined the Lord on
February 12, 2007
at the age of 70.

His remains lie in state at **Chapel Magnolia of the Sanctuarium**, No. 739 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Saturday, the 17th of February 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. DOMINGO T. ANTONIO, JR.

Passed on to meet his Creator, and to be reunited with his beloved ***Ludinila****,*
on 13 February 2007 at the age of 96.

He is deeply mourned by his children **Regina** and **Gary Freed**, **Cristina**, **Celia** and **Jose Roberto Dueñas**, **Fernando**, and **Rebecca** and **Joseph Cotaoco**; by his grandchildren **Christopher** and **Victoria**, **Margarita**, **Carissa** and **Jose Roberto II**, and **Dominic**, **Natalia** and **Carmel**; by his sister **Marita Uylangco**, and by loving nephews and nieces.

He will lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio at Forbes Park, Makati.

The funeral mass will be held on Saturday 17 February 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Santuario main church. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Death Notice

MA. PAZ E. REMO

(Mother, Teacher)
of Goa, Camarines Sur

passed away on February 9, 2007 at the age of 65.

Her body lies in state at their residence on L. Pan St., Goa, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be today, February 16, 2007 at the Goa Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Goa Catholic Church.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley,
I feel no harm. For you are
at my side, your rod and staff
give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

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"BEN-RESTY"

of Cavite and Pasay City

August 29, 1935 – February 10, 2007

He is survived by his loving wife **Amelita Mojica Restrivera**

HIS CHILDREN:
Arch. Rizalito (Itoy) & Beth Reyes
Roehl & Tess San Juan
Ralph (Bombie) & Joy Jurado
Rico (Cocoy) & Pinky De Leon
Rommel (Ging-Ging)

HIS GRANDCHILDREN:
Richard Vien, Reyanne Patricia & Randell
Rhanica, Raia & Riehl
Rhenz Rien, Rhaelene & Rob Raanan

His brothers, sisters and their families:
Anita & Ernie Ruedas(†), Leonida (Onnie) & Alfredo Hilario(†), Estela and Roger Villon(†), Efren & Paz Ang, Erlinda & Rene Ramos, Soledad (Sollie) & Nonie Perez, Mandy & Ma. Teresita Concepcion, Remedios (Baby) & Nong Espiridion, Susan & Sonny Mata and Alfredo (Bolo) & Lydia Valerio

SWK Family
Msgr. Rino Anatalio, Dr. Cesar & Dra. Lucy Santiago, Dr. Ting & Baby Bernardo, Rey & Flor Dela Peña, Ariel & Odette San Pablo, Freddie & Ning Vasquez, Pepito & Candy Isidro, Jun(†) & Marian Marasigan, Jessie & Evelyn Macabagdal, Bert(†) & Tek Arceo and **Lina Bustamante**

His remains lie in state at his residence at 516 Protacio St., Pasay City and will be transferred to the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, Daughters of Saint Paul, 2650 FB Harrison St., Pasay City on February 17, 2007.

Holy Mass will be celebrated on February 18, 2007 at the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary at 12:00 NN. Interment will follow at the Heritage Park, Taguig, M.M.

The surviving members of the family, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

We find strength.
And we are humbly grateful to God
In knowing that you touched so many lives
In your concern for others.
You will forever be
In our hearts

We will miss you...

Our Dearly Beloved

Atty. Manuel "Boie" Cuna Aclo

May 6, 1946 - February 14, 2007

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 14, 2007 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **Ying**; children: **Jean Grace** and **Boyet**, **Dodong**; grandchildren **Rico**, **Honey**, **MC** and **Jomarie**; brothers and sisters **Lito** and **Renie**, **Susan** and **Nonong**, **Deo** and **Senie** and all nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

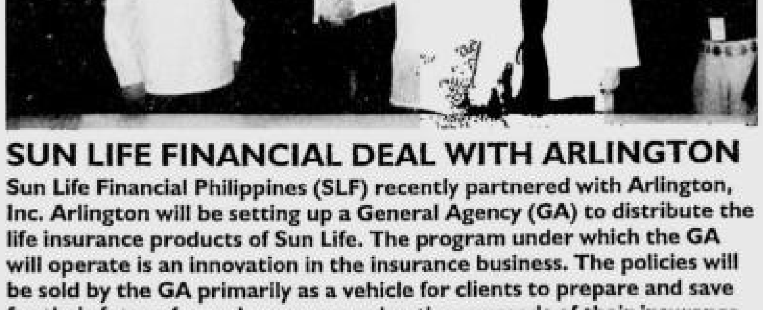
His body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 18, 2007 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

CLASSIFIEDS



SUN LIFE FINANCIAL DEAL WITH ARLINGTON

Sun Life Financial Philippines (SLF) recently partnered with Arlington, Inc. Arlington will be setting up a General Agency (GA) to distribute the life insurance products of Sun Life. The program under which the GA will operate is an innovation in the insurance business. The policies will be sold by the GA primarily as a vehicle for clients to prepare and save for their future funeral expenses, using the proceeds of their insurance policies. Shown are (from left) Arlington CFO Maribel Madamba; SLF SVP for Finance Caesar Altarejos, SLF President and CEO Lorenzo V. Tan; Arlington President Rafael Jose; Arlington Vice President for HR Cynthia Colet; Arlington Vice President for Operations Cristina Jose; and SLF Business Development Officer Mylene Daez.

The Board of Directors, Officers, and Staff of

Filinvest Group

and

the Gotianun Family

extend their profound condolence
to the family of

Ms. Concepcion "Ching" Fernandez

February 8, 1949 - February 13, 2007

(Retired VP for Purchasing, Filinvest Group)

who has joined our Creator
on February 13, 2007

We will surely keep you in our hearts...

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT NO.	PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS
1	9467	Various Computer and Computer Hardware	P 840,415.00	P 800.00	February 12 to 19, 2007	February 20, 2007	March 6, 2007
2	9479	Brand New Handheld Computer, Cable, Meter Reading Software & Solid State Disk	775,000.00	700.00	February 12 to 19, 2007	February 20, 2007	March 6, 2007
3	9528	PVC Pipes for Extension of Feederline at Brillantes Drive., Gov. Ramos Rehabilitation Project	270,964.00	310.00	February 14 to 20, 2007	February 22, 2007	March 8, 2007
4	9532 & 9529	Brass & Cast Iron Fittings for Extension of Feederline at Brillantes Drive, Gov. Ramos Rehabilitation Project and Stock Replenishment	1,117,390.00	1,000.00	February 14 to 20, 2007	February 22, 2007	March 8, 2007
5	9489	Various Hardware Item for use by the Special Task Force	P 460,000.00	460.00	February 16 to 22, 2007	February 27, 2007	March 13, 2007

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 - 5:00 pm).

All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City, Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St. Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Fax: (062) 911-2799

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC I Chairman

(PDI – February 16, 2007)

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CONCEPCION LACSON FERNANDEZ
"CHING"

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 13, 2007, at the age of 58.

Her sister **Nena**, brothers and sisters-in-law
Luisito and **Jingjing**, **Vicente** and **Marot**,
Ramon and **Piluchi**, **Jose** and **Twinkie**;

nephews and nieces **Jay** and **Inna**, **Tricia** and **Brian**,
Luigi and **Idy**, **Baba** and **Cara**, **Charlie**, **Marky**,
Ila, **Maita**, **Paolo**, **Lia**; grandnephews and grandnieces,
relatives and friends request prayers for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church,
New Manila, Quezon City.

The funeral Mass will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2007
at 2 o'clock in the afternoon
after which the burial will take place in
Manila North Cemetery.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
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cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
GLORIA MARIS SHARK'S FIN RESTAURANT, INC. (MIRAGE RESOURCES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION) Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Manila	Hung On Chair	Chief Cook
KEVIN BESTFOOD MFG. CORP. No. 36 Carriedo St. cor. Hilltop, San Juan, Metro Manila	Kwang Shin Kang	General Manager
KEVIN BESTFOOD MFG. CORP. No. 36 Carriedo St. cor. Hilltop, San Juan, Metro Manila	Yoon Joo Kang	Assistant Manager
G1 ATV MOTORS SALES & RENTAL CORP. 2847 Osmeña Highway cor. Gil Puyat, Makati City	Jee Whan Park	Board of Director
PHILJOY.COM TOURS AND CONSULTING CORP. U-105 Residencia 8888, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jeoung Eun Sin (w/o Yoo)	General Manager
PHIL-JAPAN MARINE SURVEYORS & SWORN MEASURES CORP. 5/F SEDCO Bldg., 120 Rada cor. Legaspi Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yoshio Nakamura	Vice President
TMM MANAGEMENT INC. 3/F Philamlife Bldg., C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Wue Kwang Jimmy Lee	Consultant-Finance and Administration
SUNG KWANG TRADING CO., INC. 23 Spencer St., Bo. Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao, Quezon City	Moosoo Lim	Assistant Manager
OPTIMUS ENTERPRISES 1715 J. Bocobo St., Malate, Manila	Rhun Shil Yu (w/o Park)	Operation Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – February 16, 2007)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through the Committee on Bids invites authorized Distributors/Dealers of Manual Typewriter to apply for brand accreditation as pre-requisite for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of Funding
1,031 Manual Typewriter	P13,609,200.00	Judiciary Development Fund

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:

Ninety (90) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order (P.O.)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. SUBMISSION OF UNITS FOR TESTING:

Interested parties must submit at least three (3) units of Manual Typewriters to Mr. Gil Tribiana, Jr., SC Chief Judicial Staff Officer, Property Division, OCA, for testing **on or before February 23, 2007**.

II. BRAND ACCREDITATION AND PRE-BID CONFERENCE:

The brand accreditation and pre-bid conference will be held on:

Date : **March 28, 2007, Wednesday**
Venue : **Session Hall 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.**
Time : **2:00 p.m.**

III. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS

The eligibility requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened, thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on:

Date : **April 4, 2007, Wednesday**
Venue : **Session Hall 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.**
Time : **2:00 p.m.**

Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the **Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 3rd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)**, prior to the conduct of brand accreditation & pre-bid conference. For additional information, the bidders may contact the **Secretary, Atty. Ennar R.C. Cabanilla at telefax no. 5251270 or Ms. Norma C. Josue at tel. no. 5266419**.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

February 14, 2007

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI–February 16, 2007)

BISLIG CITY WATER DISTRICT
John Bosco District, Mangagoy, Bislig City
8311 Surigao del Sur
Tel. # (086) 853-2032 (Philcom); Telefax (086) 628-2092 (PLDT)
Website: www.biswad.gov.ph * Email: bcwd@philcom.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bislig City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : FILTERING MACHINE FOR SAN ANTONIO WATER SOURCES
Location : Kauntuan Pumping Station, P#8, Tabon, Bislig City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic Self-cleaning Pressure Filter Machine with a Capacity of 100 LPS including the provision of 6.0m x 7.0m shed
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,435,441.57
Contract Duration : 180 days
Project Reference No. : Goods – 01 – 07

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel & equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment is indicated in the Eligibility Form. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) Including Application for Eligibility	February 16-March 01, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 02-08, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements (Deadline)	March 09, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 10-March 16, 2007
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 17-23, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	March 28, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
7. Receipt of Bidding Documents	March 29-April 18, 2007
8. Opening of Bids	April 18, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Bislig City Water District Office, John Bosco Avenue, Mangagoy, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P200.00 to the Bislig City Water District Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to the bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Bislig City Water District Cashier.

The Bislig City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **HELEN P. GOMONIT**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – February 16, 2007)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RENOVATION OF SSS MARIKINA BRANCH OFFICE

Project Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Completion Period	Date/Time			Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
			Submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements	Pre-bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
Renovation of SSS Marikina Branch Office located at Tal Bldg., Gil Fernando Ave., Sta. Elena, Marikina City • *Renovation works involve electrical, structured cabling, mechanical, civil, architectural works and other related works to complete the project.* *IAEB No. 2007-003-Civil*	*P2,123,443.82* CAPEX – Leasehold Improvement	*30 calendar days*	*March 09, 2007 2:30p.m.*	*March 23, 2007 2:00p.m.*	*April 13, 2007 2:00p.m.*	*P2,500.00*

1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for *the above-mentioned work*. Bidders should posses a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs for the above-mentioned project on or before **February 23, 2007, up to 5:00p.m.** at the *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City* and secure therefrom **Part I of the Bidding Documents consisting of the Eligibility Requirements**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated in a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents as mentioned above at *the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents at the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, on the afore-mentioned dates. Any Eligibility Documents submitted after this deadline shall be declared "Late" and shall not be accepted by the Bids and Awards Committee. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. **Part II of the Bidding Documents** may be purchased by the Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a *nonrefundable* fee. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **March 21, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
7. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on the deadline specified above.. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in a form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be conducted on the above-mentioned date, at the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address
9. Completion of the works is required within the period specified above from receipt of Notice of Award issued by SSS, BAC or from receipt of Notice to Proceed issued by the Branch Support Services (BSS), whichever comes first.
10. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman,Quezon City • Tel # 922-2991,924-7380, 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph • Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - February 16, 2007)

OBITUARIES

We Lovingly Remember

the 11th Death Anniversary of

AUGUSTO G. SYJUCO, SR.

(January 8, 1920 – February 16, 1996)

Holy Masses will be offered today, February 16, 2007
at the following churches:

Immaculate Concepcion Parish Concepcion, Malabon	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City	6:00 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish Magallanes, Makati City	6:15 a.m.
San Agustin Chapel Dasmariñas Village, Makati City	6:45 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati City	12:15 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish Arnaiz Street, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish San Bernardino, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:00 p.m.

We, his family, request relatives, friends and pious readers
to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

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Arlington partners with Sun Life of Canada

NLJ GENERAL INSURANCE Agency has launched Sun Serenity, a new program offered through the joint efforts of Sun Life of Canada (Phils.) Inc. and Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc.

This special offering provides benefits at a highly competitive price. Raffy Jose, president of Arlington Memorial Chapels Inc., says, "NLJ was put up primarily to address the needs of our client families who come to us and ask how they can prepare for the death of a loved one. We have always tried to help but the financial difficulty has always been a burden to them and we believe that this is the best way to address their financial concerns."

Through the Sun Serenity program, NLJ allows the client to own an insurance policy for the purpose of defraying the costs associated with a loved one's passing. NLJ General Insurance Agency is offering three Sun Life Insurance Plans namely, Sun Solution, Sun Sure Pay 5 and Sun Sure Pay 10.

According to Raoul Littaua, senior vice president for marketing for Sun Life of Canada, "Grieving is difficult in itself and trying to come up with the money for a dignified service makes it harder. Preparing for the inevitable is not only something someone does for his or her loved ones, it's also the responsible thing to do."

Sun Life of Canada pioneered life insurance in the Philippines. With over four hundred thousand policyholders, it is one of the three biggest life insurance companies in the country today.

"The partnership with Arlington is very much aligned with our mission as a company in ensuring the financial security of Filipinos over their lifetime. And that will include preparing for the inevitable." Littaua added.

Sun Solution provides lifetime coverage, payable within ten, fifteen or twenty years. It provides dividends which can be withdrawn in cash, left to accumulate or used to increase coverage and even to reduce premium payments.

Sun Sure Pay 5 and Sun Sure Pay 10 provide lifetime coverage payable within five or ten years. These plans also provide guaranteed cash payouts equivalent to six percent of the face amount starting at the end of the fourth year and every two years thereafter for life. The packages also generate dividends that can be withdrawn in cash, left to accumulate or used to increase coverage and reduce premium payments.

"With Sun Life's strength and foundation, coupled with Arlington's personalized service, we can offer our client families security and peace of mind." Jose stressed. Arlington Memorial Chapels, founded by Nestor Lopez Jose in the 1908s, has gone a long way to become one of the most established funeral homes in the Philippines. Owned and operated by the Jose family, Arlington prides itself in providing personalized, professional services to all its clients.

For more information regarding this release, please contact Ms. Techie Severino, 715-1025 to 28.

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa

SM Hypermarket's 'Shop & Win' grand draw winners

ENTREPRENEUR MARLON GERMO NEVER considered himself a lucky person. Germo, a supervisor of a drilling company, never won the lottery or sweepstakes, yearly Christmas raffle draws, or any promotions sponsored by companies. So when he received a phone call from SM Hypermarket informing him that he has won P2 million in a nationwide promo, his reaction was one of total disbelief.

Germo is a grand draw winner of SM Hypermarket's Shop & Win promo, a raffle in which over 30 individuals all over the country have won cash prizes as much as P1 million every month. SM Hypermarket is considered the biggest, most reliable, and most convenient hypermarket chain in the Philippines, with nine branches nationwide.

Shop & Win is co-sponsored by some of the country's leading names in food, beverage, and health care products, household appliances, furniture, apparel, and shoes.

Germo never expected to win in the Shop & Win promo. It was his wife who had high hopes that their dream of winning cash prizes in the Shop & Win promo would someday be realized.

"Ever since SM Bicutan opened, our family has been shopping frequently at SM Hypermarket. We always do our grocery shopping at SM Hypermarket Bicutan because the place is very accessible and convenient," said Germo, a resident of Parañaque. SM Hypermarket's other branches are located at SM Sucat, SM Marilao, SM Valenzuela, SM Molino, SM Clark, SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa-The Block, and SM Pasig.

"When a good friend of mine won P10,000 in Shop & Win, I was encouraged to also join the raffle draw," recalled Germo. "Because I am a frequent shopper of SM Hypermarket, I was able to easily accumulate over 500 raffle entries which I tirelessly filled out and submitted, hoping that I will be as fortunate as my friend." Little did Germo know that he will be even more fortunate than his friend.

More than just a simple raffle draw for loyal shoppers of SM Hypermarket, the Shop & Win promo is SM's way of making a significant impact in the lives of the public through generous financial rewards. Winners have used their cash prizes to set up small businesses, pay for their children's tuition, pay for medical expenses, and augment household expenditures.

For his part, Germo generously allotted a significant portion of his cash prize for the hospitalization needs of a cancer-stricken relative. The 29-year-old father of two also allocated his winnings for important expenses of his family and other relatives.

Winning in the Shop & Win promo has made Germo and his family even more loyal shoppers of SM Hypermarket and SM malls. "If you compare the prices of the goods, food, and other products in SM Hypermarket with other supermarkets, SM Hypermarket's prices are really more affordable than others. We buy all our grocery items and even appliances there."

SM Hypermarket is set to conclude its Shop & Win promo with a much anticipated grand draw. At stake in the final grand draw slated today at Taste Asia in SM Mall of Asia are cash prizes worth millions of pesos.

"Galing ng Pinoy sa Nego
sa Pag-asenso."

TLRC'S ONE-STOP BUSINESS AND LIVELIHOOD FAIR

If you're looking to start a business or invest your money this 2007, then go to the Technology & Livelihood Resource Center expo entitled 'Perlas ng Pangkabuhayang Pinoy - Galing ng Pinoy sa Negosyo, Daan sa Pag-asenso' on Feb. 21 to 26, at the SM Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The biggest business and livelihood fair marks the 30th anniversary of the TLRC and will feature about 200 start-up businesses, a wide array of investment opportunities in manufacturing, exporting, retailing, franchising, distributorship, dealerships, direct selling among others that ordinary people can avail of. The TLRC is also inviting businesses to showcase their products in this unique and unprecedented business affair. Among the first to support TLRC's fair is Hyundai Starex PRO. Shown at the contract-signing are (from left) Claire F. Castillo, VP, Image Plus Business Solutions; Maria Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and COO of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc; Antonio Ortiz, Director General of the TLRC and Ma. Rosalinda Lacsamana, Group Manager of the TLRC. For inquiries call Image Plus Business Solutions at 927-4597, 928-3302, 0906-341-0516 or e-mail imageplusevents@yahoo.com.

BANKING ON NEW LEADERS

To span its aim to propagate the ideals of the bank marketing profession, the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) recently inducted its board of directors and officers for 2007 at Mandarin Hotel in Makati, with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. (center) as the inducting officer. The following inductees are (from left) vice president Yolanda Crisanto of Metrobank, secretary Emmanuel Tuazon of Security Bank, treasurer Miguel Villa-Real of Philippine Veterans Bank, auditor Leonora Fernandez of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and president Roberto Banaag of Planters Development Bank, with board directors Lily Grace Andaya of Green Bank, Ana Belen Castelo of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp, Roberto Reyes of Philippine Bank of Communications, Angeline Tanco of Bank of China, Edwin Fontanilla of World Partners Bank and Reynaldo Marukot of Bancnet.

WV'S ROUND 5 SOCIAL MOBILIZATION ON TB PROJECT KICKS OFF

World Vision Philippines (WV) implements another five-year Tuberculosis (TB) Project in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), the Tropical Disease Foundation (TDF), and the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT). Dubbed as the Round 5 Social Mobilization on TB (SMT) Project, it kicked off with a consultative meeting with new staff and partners held recently in Cebu City. Shown are the staff and partners of WV's SMT project with the project's TB mascots Tibitina and Tibinoy.

PLDT WeRoam Mania: Winning over more converts across the nation

IT WAS AN INSTANT HIT WHEN IT was first introduced in March last year. And the excitement still is at fever pitch.

Now, even government officials are finding uses for this wonderful thing called PLDT WeRoam, the country's first mobile broadband service that allows users to surf the Web almost anywhere in the country without the use of telephone lines.

Bulacan Governor Josie dela Cruz, whom many consider a visionary leader with a penchant for technology, is now an avid fan.

"We want to lure our young workforce back to Bulacan," she said. "And we're going to do that by unlocking our province's potential through ICT development."

Part of the strategy is to enable provincial government workers with the award-winning PLDT WeRoam. With PLDT WeRoam and notebook PCs, government services and functions can be more effectively rendered and accomplished.

One of the uses of PLDT WeRoam is for more accurate tax surveys. The provincial government's agents can use PLDT WeRoam to monitor updated zone information on the website and use it for tax-mapping.

Indeed Bulacan has won many awards, including Best Provincial Website for 2005. It proved to be an effective channel for extended government services and has provided a forum for Bulacan residents to air their concerns.

"Our Taas-Noo Bulacan program is always finding ways to inspire and motivate our constituents and usually the best stories concern Bulacan's new opportunities in ICT, opportunities that we can easily capitalize on," said Governor Josie.

Banks have also found PLDT WeRoam very useful in promoting some of their products and services.

Alexander Escucha, first vice president of China Banking Corp, said online banking or e-banking is one of them. Before the advent of PLDT WeRoam, their sales kits included a demo CD where they can show clients how to navigate a hypothetical site.

PLDT WeRoam changed that dramatically.

"We could take any laptop equipped with PLDT WeRoam and go online right in front of our customers. They could see our China Bank E-Banking site live for themselves and they could navigate it in real time."

For China Bank, PLDT WeRoam has become a powerful sales tool.

"PLDT WeRoam is a powerful shortcut. For us it de-coupled online access from time schedules. It also freed us in more real terms. I've attended conferences without actually being there."

Victor T. Batungbacal, president of Asiaphil Manufacturing Industries Inc, said PLDT WeRoam is a god-send for his business.

His company is involved in the power distribution business and his mobile employees take photographs and submit reports about their project sites frequently.

"Before we had to go to Internet cafés all the time," said Batungbacal. "Now that we have WeRoam, our employees can make reports and send them to our headquarters immediately. It used to take days for information to get to you. Now, it takes minutes."

More than financial gain, PLDT WeRoam has allowed him to spend more time with his family.

"I don't want to sacrifice family time for more material wealth. A hundred percent Internet access helps me fulfill that objective. We at Asiaphil are beginning to realize the true importance and range of the solutions that PLDT is providing," he said.

Now that is powerful technology indeed. No wonder PLDT WeRoam is winning over more and more converts.

Bits Clips

50% off on Sun Cellular prepaid SIM packs

SUN CELLULAR WELCOMES THE NEW YEAR WITH another irresistible treat for its new postpaid subscribers. From Jan. 22 to Feb. 22, new postpaid subscribers may purchase up to four SIM packs at 50 percent off for every line activated. This promo is open to those who will avail of a new line, a Sun Group Plan, or a Load-Up, Own-A-Phone subscription at any of The Sun Shops nationwide. To qualify for the discount, the new postpaid subscriber simply must purchase the SIM packs the same day that they claim their postpaid SIM. Applications for a postpaid line are being accepted at all Sun Shop branches. Sun Cellular carries a wide variety of the coolest and trendiest handsets, available with the postpaid plan of your choice. Plus you also enjoy unlimited Sun-to-Sun calls and texts with Sun's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited. So hurry and avail yourself of a new postpaid line from Sun and get fabulous discounts on your prepaid SIM pack purchase.

E.nopi - The new innovation in learning

IN 1976 DAEKYO INTRODUCED A NEW TEACHING METHODOLOGY CALLED E.nopi, which has enjoyed increasing success to the present day. The E.nopi philosophy emphasizes individual learning, and teaching is adjusted to the performance level of each student. Daekyo Phils Inc announces its free two week study promo which is open for ages 5 (pre-schoolers) up to 14 years old (2nd year HS) both for E.nopi Math and English programs. Anybody who's interested could get in touch by calling the following numbers: 898-3816/897-0601/896-4606 or by visiting www.enopi.com. You can visit any center near you and ask for a free diagnostic test and orientation as well. The promo will run from Feb. 1-28 only. Register now!

PCCR Alumni Homecoming 2007

ALL GRADUATES OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF CRIMINOLOGY ARE invited to attend the PCCR Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. at the PCCR gymnasium, 4th floor, 631 Sales St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Attire is semi-formal. For further inquiries, contact PCCR and look for Liza at 314-8530.

Miriam College holds college-only reunion

MIRIAM COLLEGE WILL BE HOLDING A SPECIAL COLLEGE-ONLY REUNION on Feb. 17 at the Miriam College Grounds. This reunion is part of Miriam College's 80th anniversary celebration. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. For more info, contact the Alumni Office at 426-0173 or e-mail alumni@mc.edu.ph.

Tau Alpha marks 75th year

IN A GRAND GESTURE OF THANKSGIVING, TAU ALPHA WILL CELEBRATE ITS 75th year anniversary with a series of events starting Feb. 16 up to 24. The anniversary celebration will culminate on Feb. 24 with a Grand Fraternity Ball at the Rockwell Tent in Makati. A ceremonial tribute will also be given to Tau Alphans who have excelled in their respective fields and to those who have contributed to the fraternity's growth. All Tau Alphans are required to attend this 75th Anniversary Celebration. For reservations and further inquiries, please log on to www.taualpha.org. or contact Pepot Viado '52 at jose.viadojr@gmail.com, cell no. 0919-2516744; Art Yang '57 at jose.abyang@gmail.com, cell no. 0918-9019985; or Teddy Salud '60 at tgsalud@yahoo.com, cell no. 0917-5280686.

Aspac dinner-dance celebrates 20th anniversary

THE ATENEO SCHOOLS Parents Council (Aspac), the official association of all parents of college students in the Loyola Schools of the Ateneo de Manila University, celebrates its 20th anniversary with a Thanksgiving Mass at 6 p.m., Feb. 17, at the Camp Crame Multi-Purpose Center, Quezon City. Immediately following the mass will be a grand reunion and dinner-dance at 7 p.m.

Expected to attend the event are Aspac members and their families as well as its officers, board directors and committee chairpersons, the Aspac scholars and the larger community of the Loyola Schools over the past 20 years since it was founded by Fr. Raul J. Bonoan, S.J. in 1987, as announced by Aspac president Josie Perez-Ang and special projects chairperson Maiette M. Zee.

Aspac has been at the forefront of a continuing scholarship fund drive that has produced such outstanding graduates as class 2001 valedictorian Roselle Ambubuyog, a blind student who excelled in mathematics and is now taking a masteral actuarial course.

Also to be launched at the dinner reunion is the Aspac commemorative coffee table book which will document the story of parent volunteerism at the Ateneo, with the support of companies and sponsors that adhere to corporate social responsibility ethics.

The raffle draw of the ongoing fund drive "Rafol '06-07 Para sa Aspac Skolars" will also be held during the event. Parents of present and former college students of the Ateneo Loyola Schools are invited to call the Aspac office at 426-5691 or 426-6001 local 5190, or 921-6834/924-8339.

Product Files

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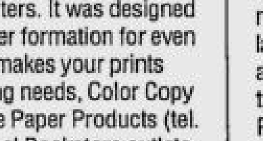

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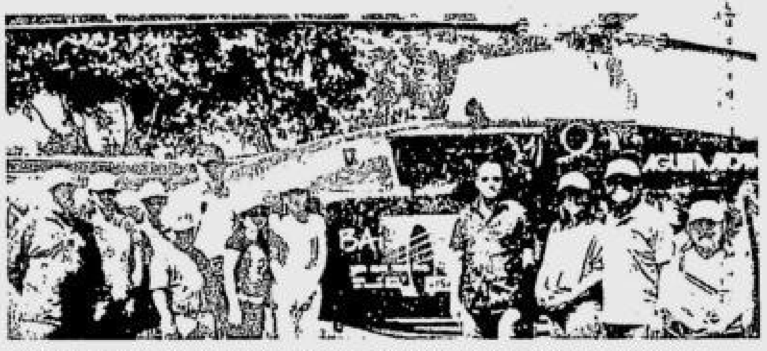


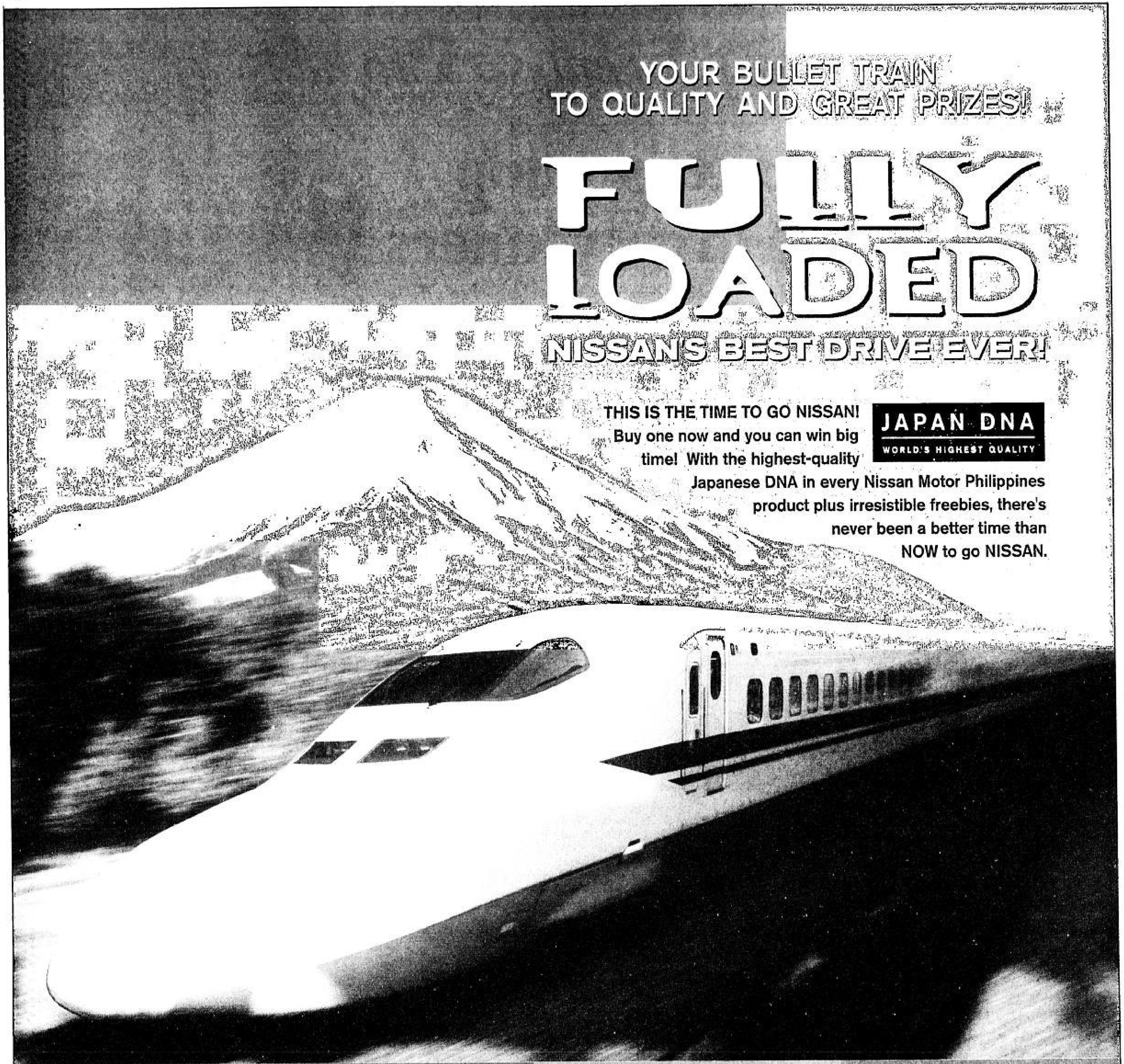
BAI VISA CARDHOLDERS TREATED TO SKY TOUR

In celebration of the yearly festivities of Sinulog, Bai Visa cardholders were treated with a memorable experience - a once in a lifetime chopper ride for a sky tour of Sinulog, another first from Bai Visa, the credit card that lets Cebuanos enjoy the rhythm of Cebu life. And to make this unique experience even more special for the Bai Visa cardholders, they were also asked to invite a companion to join them. After the chopper ride, the Bai Visa cardholders and their companions were treated to a sumptuous lunch feast at Haiphong Restaurant, Bai Visa's discount establishment partner. To apply for a Bai Visa, call 344-5050, 344-5151, 344-5252 today.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES PHILIPPINES

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INKS MOA WITH ECNI

SOS Children's Villages Philippines recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Equitable Card Network Inc utilizing Visa, MasterCard, JCB, and American Express credit cards that will allow this child welfare organization to receive donations. In photo are (seated from left) Jenny Rodil, public affairs and marketing assistant, SOS Children's Villages Phils; Roberto Silerio, senior manager, ECNI; Bienvenido L. Delgado, national director-SOS Children's Villages Phils; Marili M. Tioseco, senior vice president-marketing merchant acquiring department ECNI and; Elgene Calixtro, Jr. assistant manager, ECNI. Also present during the MOA signing are (standing from left) Vic Tejada, village director-SOS Children's Village Manila; Oscar Garol, village director-SOS Children's Village Tacloban; Delia Saberon, PFR coordinator-SOS Children's Village Cebu; Melanie Manaog, admin staff-SOS Children's Villages Phils; Ave Manriquez, PFR coordinator-SOS Children's Village Calbayog; Connie Lanes, PFR coordinator-SOS Children's Village Iloilo; Leonilo Rivero, village director-SOS Children's Village Lipa; Luis Seras, village director-SOS Children's Village Davao; and Carla Asperilla, special project assistant-SOS Children's Villages Phils.



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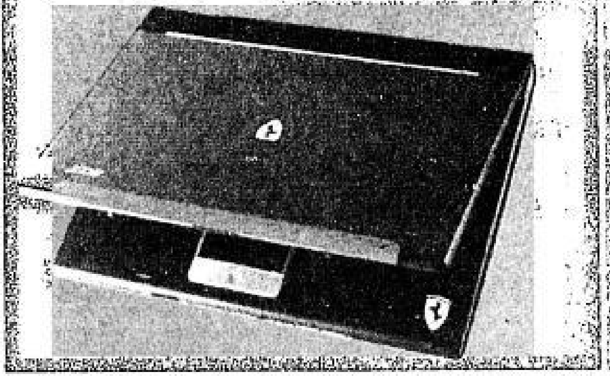

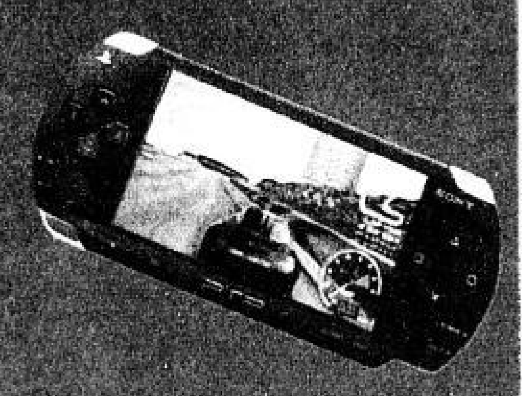

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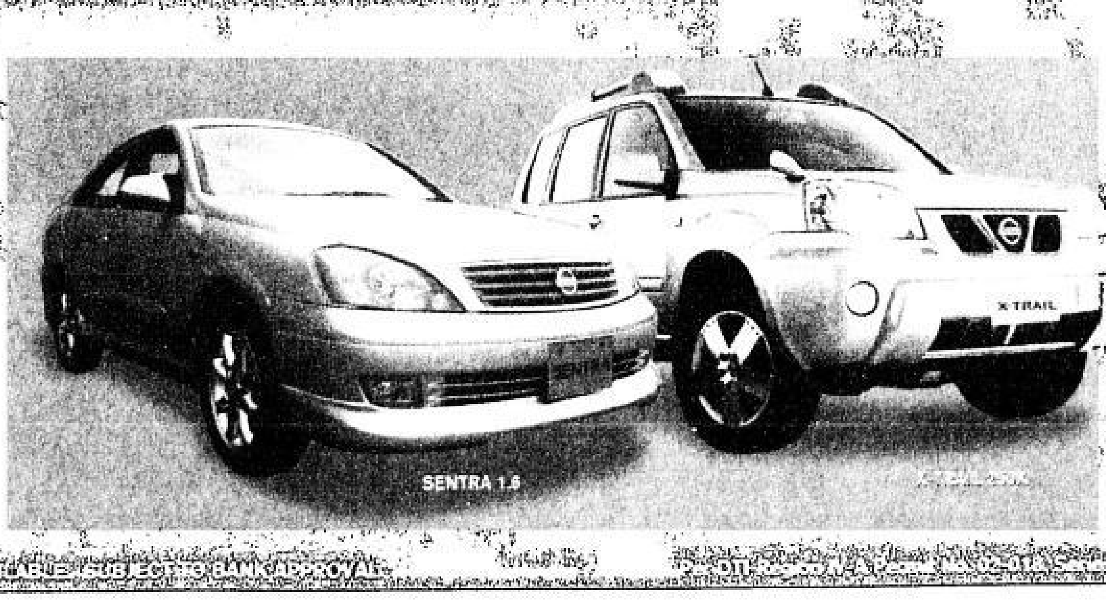

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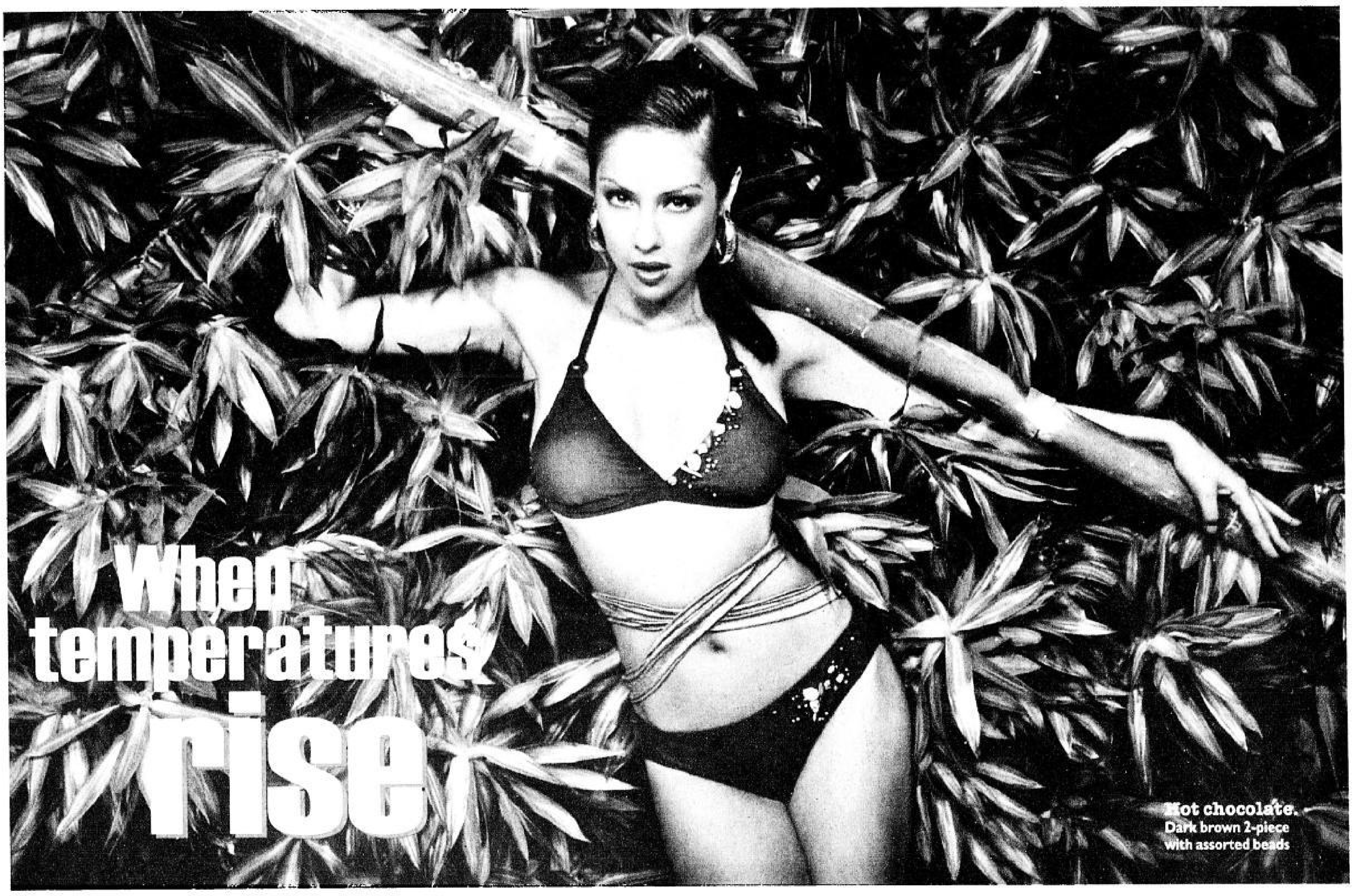
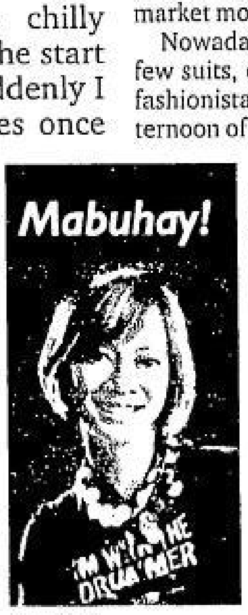


Hot chocolate. Dark brown 2-piece with assorted beads

Freeway makes summer fashion seem a breeze

JUST WHEN I AM ENJOYING dressing up for the chilly weather in Manila at the start of February, I blink and suddenly I need to peel off my clothes once again and up the A/C.



Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

That's about as far as the Philippine "winter" goes—it's more like a fling, really. Suddenly, we're back to eternal summer in this part of the world!

Of course, the start of the sizzling season only means that it's time for iced teas and hotter bikinis once again.

My heated advice—check out Freeway's summer collection 2007. It's hotter than global warming.

Freeway's 2007 collection of swimsuits showcases silhouettes that range from sexy two-piece string bikinis to cutout maillots, ethnic beaded special pieces and embroidered patterns.

For those fierce enough to show off their animal side, Freeway has animal prints, too. Roar!

For those moments in the shade or for sipping cocktails post-sunset, there are flirty (and flattering) cover-ups such as beaded chiffon, long crochet vests and comfy hoodie knits.

Modern and affordable

Freeway's Swimwear line has always been popular for pioneering in giving the young market modern and affordable swimwear.

Nowadays, it's not enough to just have a few suits, especially for the sun-worshipping fashionistas who want to change from an afternoon of tanning to all-night partying.

Of course, your summer dreams can turn into a nightmare when you find someone else in Boracay with exactly the same suit. Especially if she has a better body—now that's bikini kill!

But Freeway has taken care of that, since the quantity per style is limited. Which only means that it's time to start your summer swimsuit shopping as early as now when the new Freeway collection hits the shelves.

Right now, Freeway is giving away two free trips to Cebu's Maribago Bluewaters Island Resort and Sumilon Bluewaters Island Resort.

Every P1,000 worth of purchase entitles you to a raffle ticket. Part of the proceeds will go to Tuloy sa Don Bosco Streetchildren Foundation.

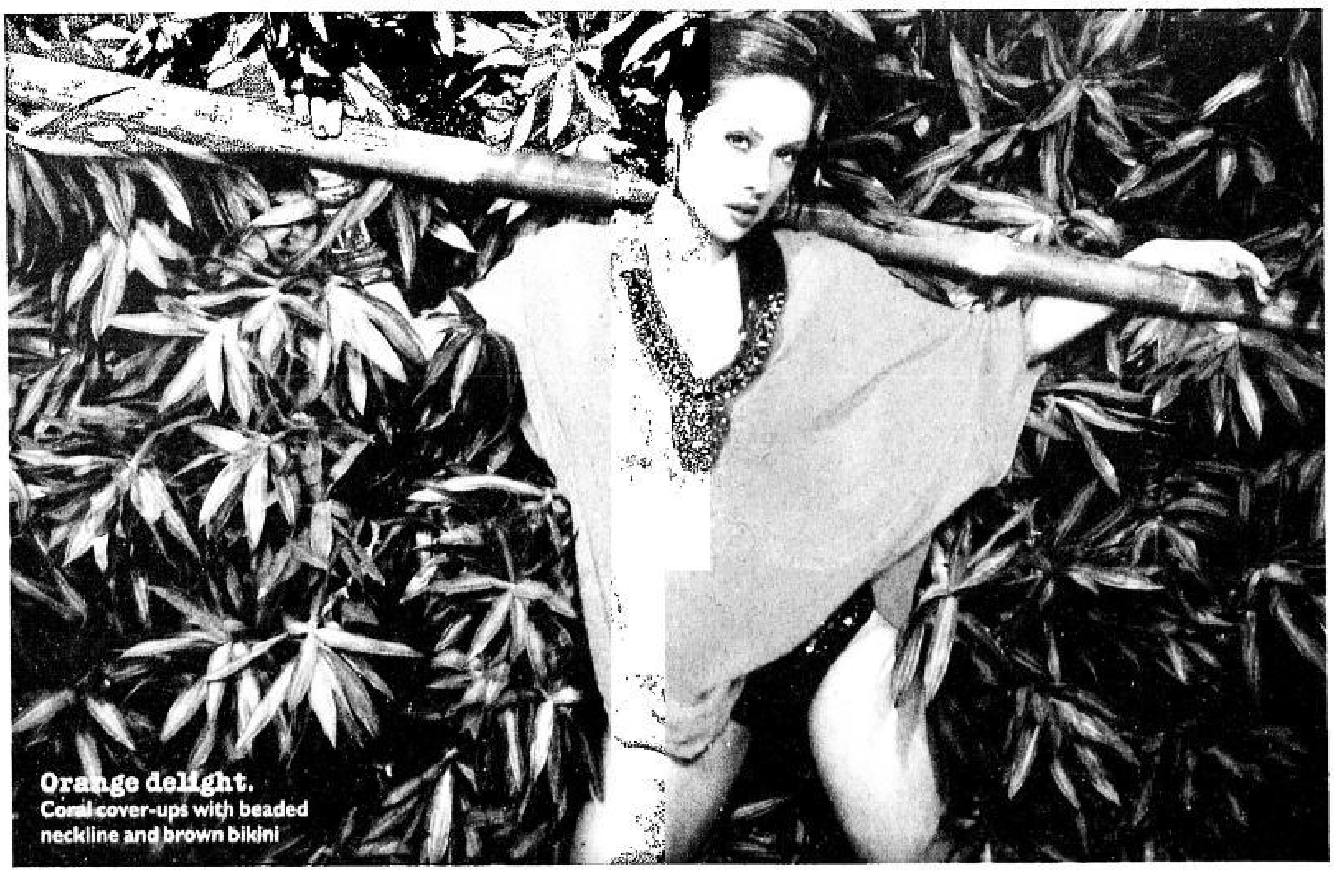
It's official. Summer has begun. Now that's hot!

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Mark Nicdao
Makeup Jigs Mayuga
Model Cindy Kurleto for Freeway

Vanilla heat. White cutout maillot

Black forest. Charcoal maillot with multicolored beads and leopard-print sarong



Orange delight. Coral cover-ups with beaded neckline and brown bikini

TAGLE portrays Delilah, by Michele Sison. Sison's creation is in ruched noir chiffon.

Iconic style

CLEOPATRA in a gown designed by Rajo Laurel. Tagle wears a gown made of gold tulle and laminated gold jersey lamé. The bodice's design is stenciled then outlined with various beads and crystals. The Egyptian motif is highlighted with leather cutouts in gold.

TAGLE portrays Eve in a Raoul Ramirez creation. The Eve catsuit is in gold-nude stretched tool with floral embroidery embellished with crystals and glass beads.

From page C4

Femme Rewards Catalog, or that can be converted to air miles for that much-deserved vacation.

Each cardholder also gets the chance to qualify for the draw where a lucky woman can win P10,000 worth of shopping credit, or a fab makeover! The official newsletter of the Metrobank Femme Visa keeps you up to date on all the latest fashion, health and career news, as well as all the discounts and freebies at your fingertips.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Lilen Uy
Model Grace Tagle for Metrobank Femme
Makeup Ricci Chan/Propaganda
Hair Nante Alingasa
Couture Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Raoul Ramirez, Michele Sison

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Iconic style

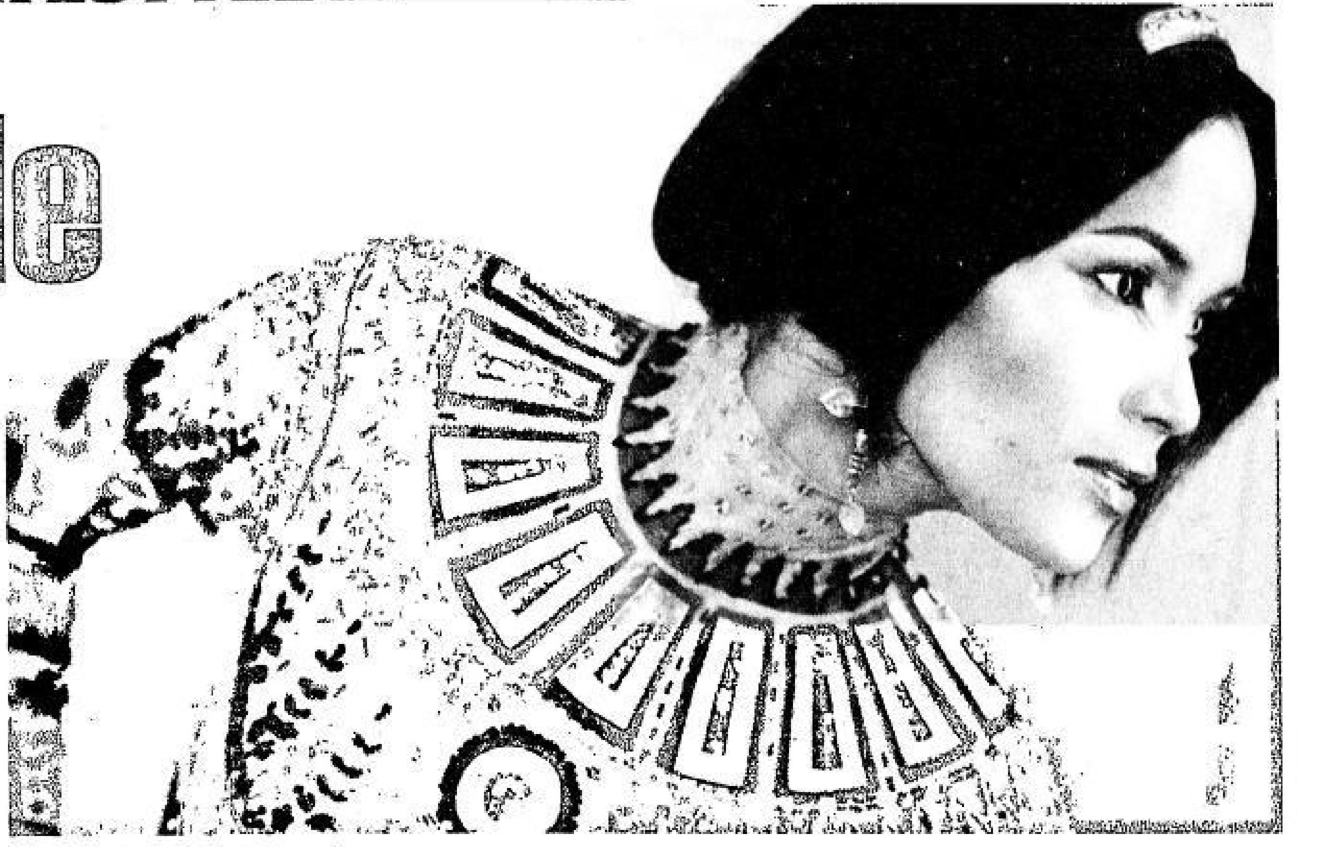
Metrobank Visa updates the looks of Cleopatra, Delilah, Eve and Maria Clara

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE VERY FIRST FASHION icons were probably none other than Cleopatra, Delilah, Eve and Maria Clara (no, not Audrey, Jackie or Grace!). All four women, legendary or not, are remembered for the significant roles they played during their times, and their very distinct looks.

Cleopatra, a Greek royal who co-ruled Egypt with her father, Ptolemy XII Auletes, is widely known for her legendary looks and steely resolve. She is often portrayed as a woman with straight, jet-black hair and bronzed skin, who dressed in lavish, gold garb.



"CLEOPATRA" by Rajo Laurel

A famed leader during the Hellenistic rule in Egypt, she is known for forging an alliance between two of the most powerful men of her time, Caesar and Mark Antony.

Delilah represents the immense power woman have over men. Flemish baroque painter Rubens portrayed her as a buxom beauty in deep luscious red while various stories presented her as a sensual but shrewd woman. She used her charisma to find out classified information that unfortunately led to her lover Samson's downfall (not to mention hair loss).

The earliest female biblical figure, Eve, is also known for the use of her innate feminine charm—over Adam, that is. Who can ever forget that sorry tale of the apple and the serpent and the couple's exile from the Garden of Eden? Eve was the first woman to suffer the pain of childbirth and thus the first to take on the role of mother to the human race.

Maria Clara is our very own icon brought to life by national hero José Rizal in his book "Noli Me Tangere." Put on a pedestal for her self-effacing beauty, she represented the ideal Filipina who did not employ her power through overt action or sex appeal. Maria Clara portrayed humility and modesty, which only made her more alluring to those around her.

Metrobank Femme Visa, a credit card for contemporary women, chose these four stylish and memorable icons to depict various facets of womanhood. Common to these four characters are the undeniable beauty and power that each woman had and how these traits have secured their place in history and literature.

Darling model

And who can better portray these legendary women than the darling of the Philippines' modeling scene, Grace Tagle? She entered the scene after winning the Elite Model Look and is now touted as one of the top models in the industry. Regionally acclaimed (she represented the country recently in the show "Love Asia"), she is known for her beauty and professionalism. A chameleon who can look fierce one moment and demure the next, Grace is indeed the perfect woman to embody such icons.

The Metrobank Femme Visa celebrates these women and others who dare to be on top. Take inspiration from these historical fashion icons and live the bold and beautiful life, while fulfilling your many roles and duties as a modern-day woman.

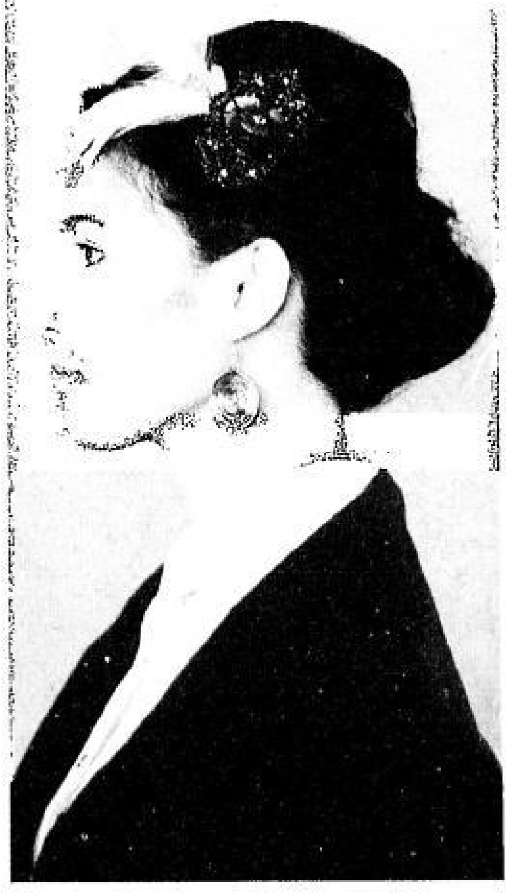
There are over 23 million business establishments worldwide that accept the Metrobank Femme Visa.

The first time you use your card, you automatically get a free three-month subscription to Metro magazine. This is to guide you on your shopping sprees.

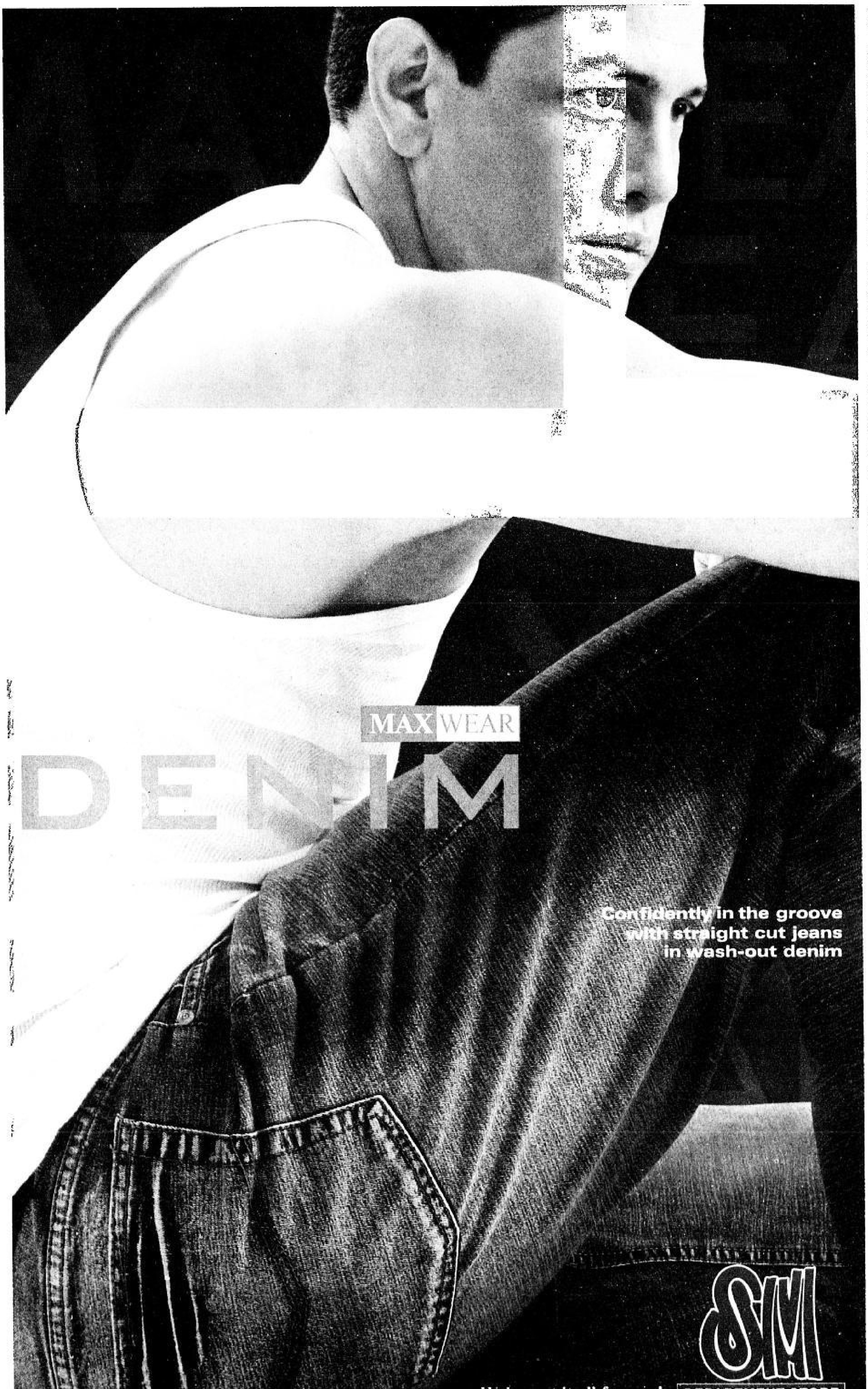
That's not all women get with their Metrobank Visa. The card also sponsors Career Femme sessions where women experts and luminaries from different industries share career advice and beauty tips. Talk about networking and building contacts!

Best of all, each time you shop, you earn points that allow you to avail of items from the

ICONIC/ C3



TAGLE portrays Maria Clara in Jojie Lloren's ensemble. Lloren interprets Maria Clara in a western jacket with *panuelo*-esque collar and bishop sleeves in lieu of the baro. The serpentine dress has a shirt collar worn with tie.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LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Red-carpet race is on

JESSICA Alba in Versace AFP

UMA Thurman in Versace AFP

NICOLE Kidman in Balenciaga AFP

REESE Witherspoon in vintage gown

KEIRA Knightly in Vera Wang

THE ENTERTAINMENT awards season opens the race to the red carpet. Who will wear who at the Oscars? Since Hollywood has become the chief purveyor of style, and its stars can set off or kill a trend, the red carpet is now "the" event; it's not just a prop or a geography.

The RC has become the power zone of the New Millenium. It can make or un-make a star or a fashion brand. This is why at this time, stylists—the real power brokers—are much sought-after by fashion houses. The houses pitch their designs to the stylists so that the latter can choose these for their stars.

This early, Armani—the master of this game who started dressing the stars for the Oscars long before the red carpet became the "Red Carpet"—has bagged Kate Blanchett, and of course, the Cruises (Tom and Katie).

It is reported that as Blanchett wrapped up shooting in New Orleans, the Armani private jet waited in the wings to fly her to Paris for fittings. Just to make sure there were no hitches, an Armani vice-president waited along with the jet.

Remember the Chanel fiasco of two Oscars back, when Reese Witherspoon wore the same Chanel which Kirsten Dunst had worn on the red-carpeted in a previous awards ceremony? As if to make sure that wouldn't be repeated, Witherspoon wore a vintage last year. This year, she'll be in an Oliver Theyskens for Nina Ricci.

Last year, some stars, like Witherspoon, pulled a surprise by not going for any brand and wearing instead a vintage gown they chose themselves. J.Lo made a clear statement, for instance, along that line.

It was also last year when Donatella Versace returned with a vengeance to the red carpet (she had spent some time in rehab for substance abuse), dressing many of the high-wattage names.

Aside from Donatella and Armani in this year's Oscars, there should also be the mainstays—Balenciaga (Nicole Kidman), Carolina Herrera (Renee Zellwegger), Vera Wang, Dior by Galliano. Gucci isn't as high profile as it used to be when Tom Ford was around. And I'm curious which big star will be in a Monique Lhuillier.

To be sure, two or more stars will carry a Celestina bag; Ricco and Tina Ocampo will see to that. Already, they've snagged Drew Barrymore on the red carpet. (The other night at Silk, the "innest" place today, Ching Cruz used a Celestina at dinner. Sans the red carpet, of course.)

> Now, how do you walk your own Hollywood RC?

Backyard RC

It's interesting how every backyard on the planet seems to be holding its own RC event, making the RC the ultimate stamp of glamour and glitz. Of course, if it's not done right, it can be the ultimate pretentious gesture.

If by some chance you're asked to walk your village's version of the RC, what do you do?

If you already have chosen the fashion house (literally, the "modista" address) and what to wear—solid not busy-print, clean and continuous silhouette, not cut-up and cluttered to the point that it shrinks you down to an elf's height—what do you choose next? Shoes. They should be of a good height, to make you look and stand tall. Make sure you're in absolute comfort wearing them.

Apart from the gown (or mini, if you're twentysomething or younger), what establishes your presence on the red carpet is a good solid height through shoes that encourage you to stretch up and not slouch. "Stiletto-nistas" won't be happy unless their shoes are at least four or five inches high. That could be a bit much for us real women; we should be all right with three inches.

Then what else? Find yourself a good ol' male walker on whose arm you can hook your hand, feel self-confident and laugh away with, as you walk.

The best fashion accessory is still a gay friend.

Clean vs filthy

We were just in Bangkok last week on a nonworking trip, and it occurred to us that what makes Bangkok so different now from Metro Manila isn't its share of tony malls or bustling network of flyovers, or not even its skytrain but its cleanliness. Even the roadside eateries—the table-and-chair affairs with hawkers' carts—neither stink nor are filthy. They seem to know how to dispose of their litter. Even the sidewalks aren't covered with used plastic bags or cigarette butts. It is as if cleanliness in Bangkok is no longer just a policy, but a people's habit as well.

The Oriental Hotel hasn't updated its look to be in step with other modern hotels in the big cities because it doesn't have to. Its lure is its heritage, in an era of hotels with cookie-cutter design. Its walls, in muted eggshell, call up the images of the great authors and artists who had stayed there.

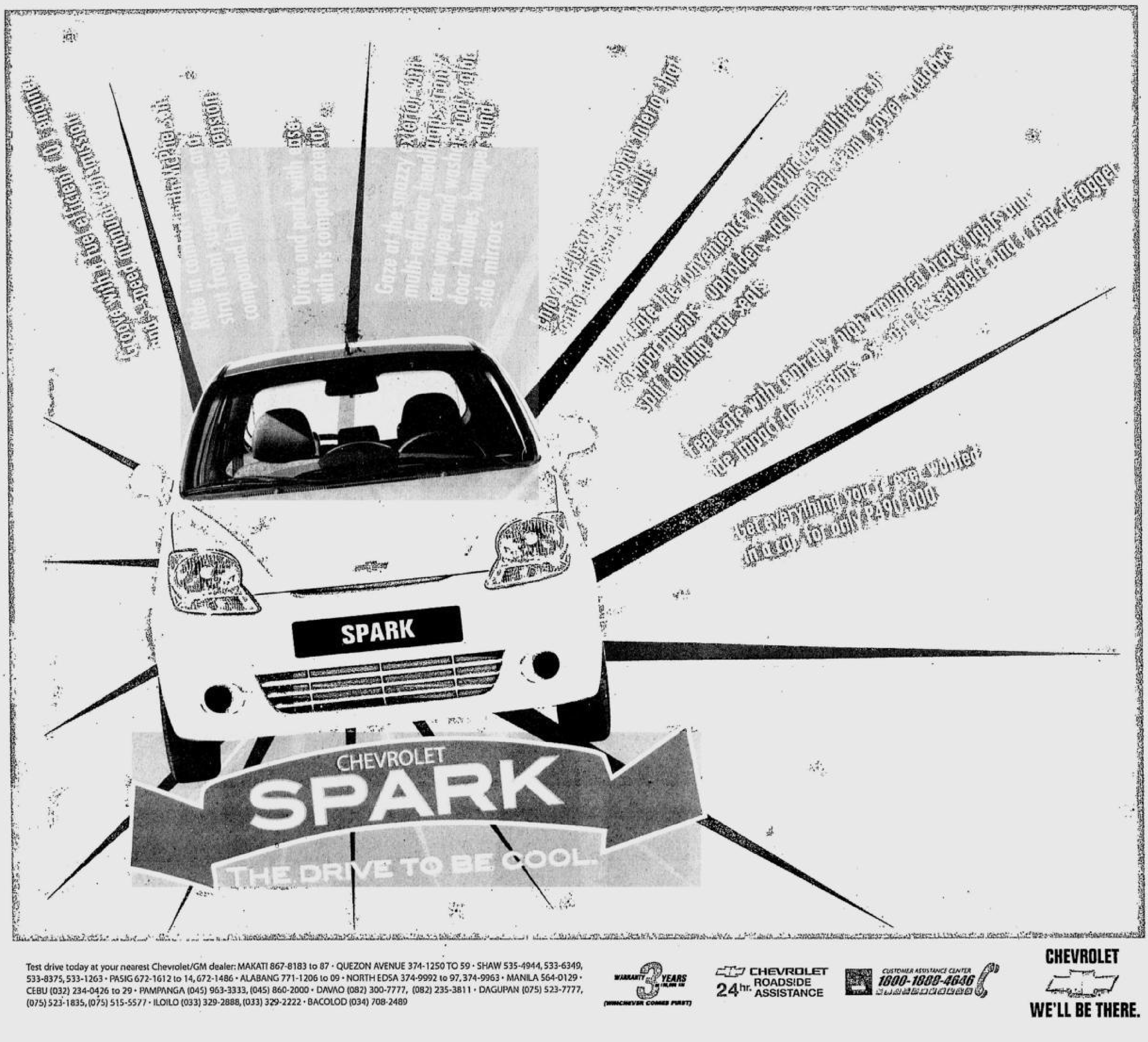
The measure of a mature city that's worthy of its place in today's world is its sense of heritage. You can't bring a promise of the future unless you have a sense of the past. Pride of place—that's what you bring to the global table. I looked around and saw the high-end tourists at The Oriental who were there undoubtedly to soak in this ambiance flavored by the past.

Dynamic woman

A friend introduced us to a dynamic woman who must be waging one of the most daunting business campaigns in Bangkok. Pannin Kitiparaporn is the CEO of the $41-million culture park in Bangkok that seems like a mini-city in itself. Pannin built the park and the humongous theater in it (with the highest proscenium in the world) that can seat 2,000.

Coming from a family that runs movie theaters and given her experience in amusement parks, she sank in $41 million in this project, mounted an 80-minute show called "Siam Niramit," like a journey to Siam, which is staged every night. The show has state-of-the-art special effects that can compete with a Cirque du Soleil, with live elephants and farm animals onstage to boot.

Pannin had seen one too many Vegas shows and told herself she would do something better. "Siam Niramit" is being sold as an attraction to tourists and to the Thais themselves. Will Pannin recoup her investment? She hopes to, but for now she says she gets a good psychic lift whenever the Thais tell her, "You've made us love our country more."



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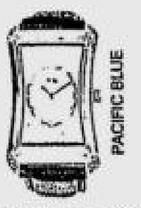

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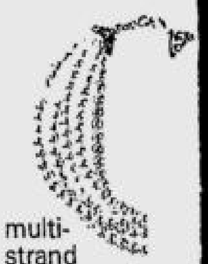

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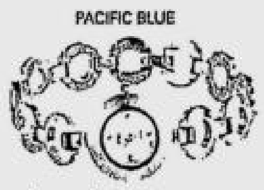

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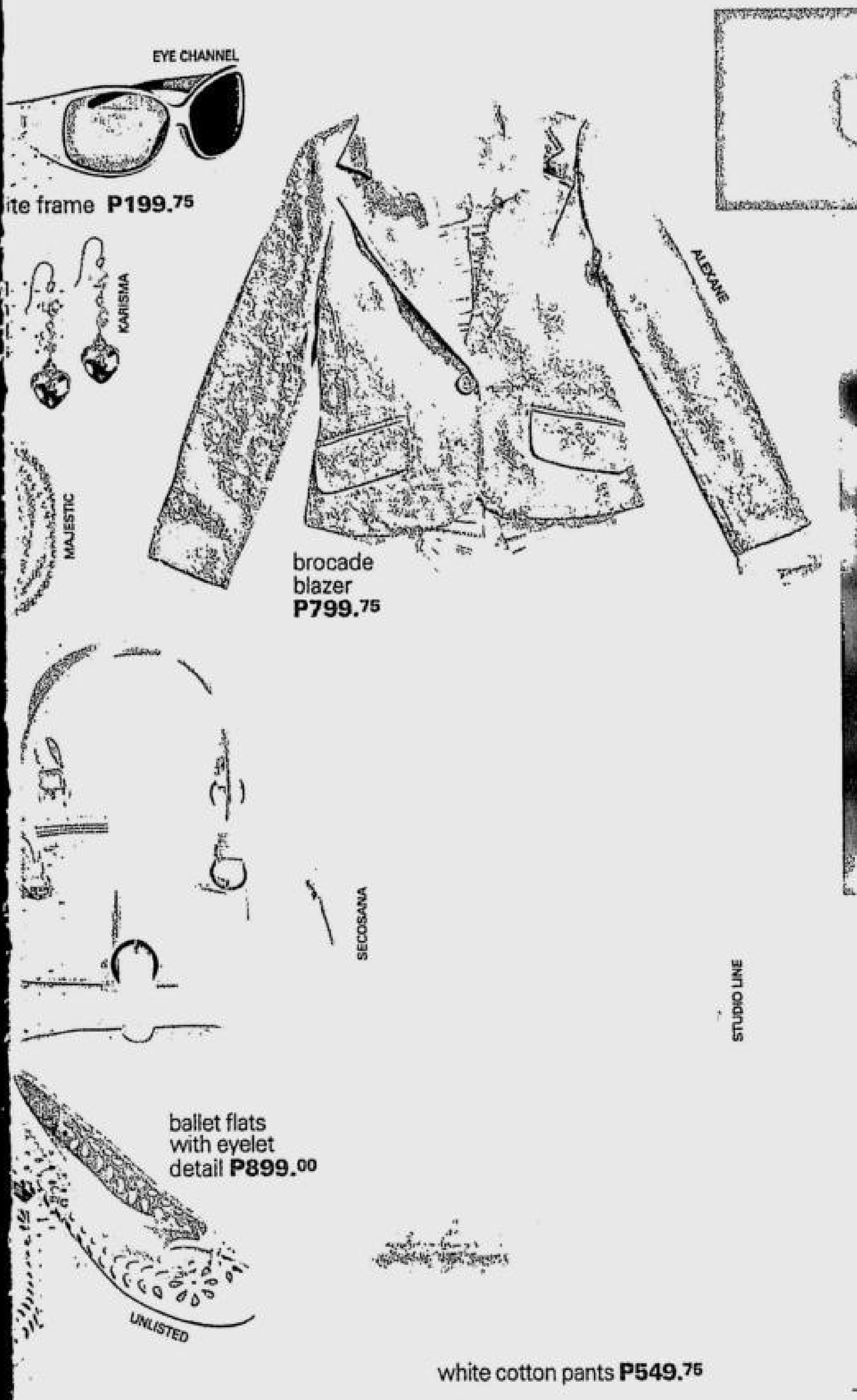

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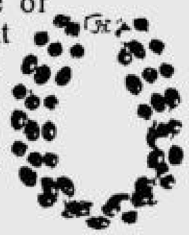
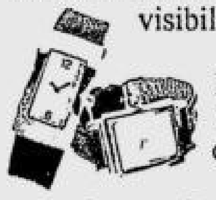
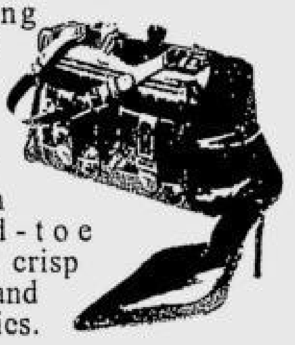


Getting dressed for work does not mean leaving your personal style behind. Your choice of colors, length and the fit of your fashion choices speak volumes about your ability to successfully pursue your career path.

Featured in this spread are winning combinations of classic and crisp ensembles accessorized with distinctive pieces. To top your boardroom looks are sky-high stilletos that would raise your presence and visibility in the workplace.



Here are a few must-knows to help you dress to succeed.



- **Power Business Attire** This is composed of business suits (matched skirts and jackets), and in most workplaces, pantsuits (matching pants and blazers). Match your power suits with closed-toe stilletos, crisp blouses and accessories.
- **Corporate Casual** Working women have interpreted this to mean everything from shorts to sundresses. But in its most literal, round-neck shirts, flip-flops are only acceptable in the most casual workplace or unless the company policies allow.
- **Dressed Down Fridays** Depending on the business, this can mean anything from corporate casuals to formal looks to “wear-your-company-logo polo and jeans.” To make sure, ask around what pieces are not allowable.

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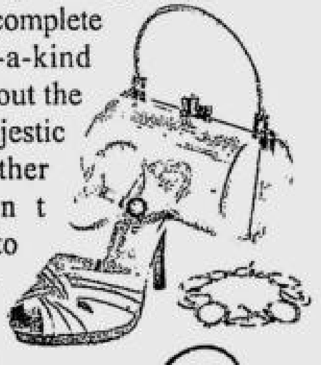

Going out on a date in a fancy restaurant? Off the racks of the SM Ladies' Sections are tempting collections of jackets, pearls, dresses and shoes to complete your one-of-a-kind look. Check out the brocades, majestic pearls and other elegant accessories to top your fashion ensemble.

enjoy life

It's a wrap for your hectic week. You are ready to treat yourself to a relaxing weekend and get your mind away from work concerns.

With ensembles you can create from SM Department Store's Collections, you ought to be really going your way and ready for anything that spells a relaxing weekend. Relax in style in SM Department Store's savvy finds that would still leave you glamorous on your most comfortable days.

Super cool deals at 3 SM Supermalls

SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Lipa and SM Supercenter Valenzuela share top billing in the upcoming 3-DAY SALE event on February 16, 17 and 18. Shoppers are invited to avail of the widest selection of merchandise, eat-out options and fun times awaiting them during the sale event.

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great selections
3 day
SALE

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0372, Series of 2007

Per DTI-BATANGAS Permit No. 016, Series of 2007

2 WAYS TO WIN

FILL UP RAFFLE COUPON OR TEXT SM TO 2366

3-Day Sale shoppers at all 3 malls get the chance to win one of 60 units of **Xtreme Magic Sing MP3 players** at stake in the February 18 & 19 draws.

Every P500 single-receipt purchase – cash or charge – from SM Department Store, SM Hypermarket, SM Supermarket or from any participating mall establishment (food or non-food) entitles shoppers to their choice of promo entries, namely:

❶ raffle coupon, which they can fill out and drop at designated drop boxes; or

❷ texting SM to 2366 for their electronic entry.

Raffle coupon draws will be held on Feb. 18 at 10 pm at the Event Center of each participating mall, while the electronic draws will be held on February 19 at 5 pm at the ABS-CBN Interactive Office, 9th floor, ELJ Communications Center Bldg., Mother Ignacia Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City.

All winners can only win once.

Neighborhood malling at SM Supercenter Valenzuela

Open daily from 10 am to 9 pm, SM Supercenter Valenzuela is strategically located in the hub of the city's business and commercial district along McArthur Highway. The mall offers more convenient neighborhood shopping, more fun and leisure options, and more choices to eat out for the whole family.

Convenience shopping at SM City Sta. Mesa

To shoppers residing in the vicinity of Araneta and Magsaysay Avenues, SM City Sta. Mesa is the first destination for convenient malling.

In addition to dozens of establishments carrying a wide merchandise mix tagged at special discounts, anchor stores, including SM Supermarket and SM Department Store, are showcasing items marked down at up to 50% off.

Everyday malling at SM City Lipa

The mid-February 3-Day Sale is SM City Lipa's first, the newest member of the growing family of SM Supermalls.

For the event, SM City Lipa has put together an irresistible mix of discounted merchandise, delicious eat-out offerings and exciting entertainment options.

Parking spaces have been reserved for SM Advantage members – on a first come, first served basis – at SM City Sta. Mesa, SM Supercenter Valenzuela, and SM City Lipa during the 3-Day Sale.

LifeStyl

New styles, fresh faces

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"BLACK Monarch," Paul Herrera's winning piece in the Accessories division, and Metro Magazine's Choice for Best Accessory

A NEWCOMER AND A REpeat contender bagged the top plums in the Samsung-sponsored Philippine Fashion Design Competition 2007 last week at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Paul Herrera and Pablo Galicia Mendez III won the grand prizes for the Accessories and the Apparel categories, respectively, in the annual tilt held by the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines.

Unlike in the previous years when the local winners and their runners-up were brought to Paris, France, to compete in the Concours International des Jeunes Createurs de Mode, however, no Filipino entry

NEW/ E2

TRIUMPHANT Pablo Galicia Mendez III with his entry, the grand-prize winner for Apparel

Young designers Paul Herrera and Pablo Galicia Mendez III are the big winners in the annual design contest by the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines

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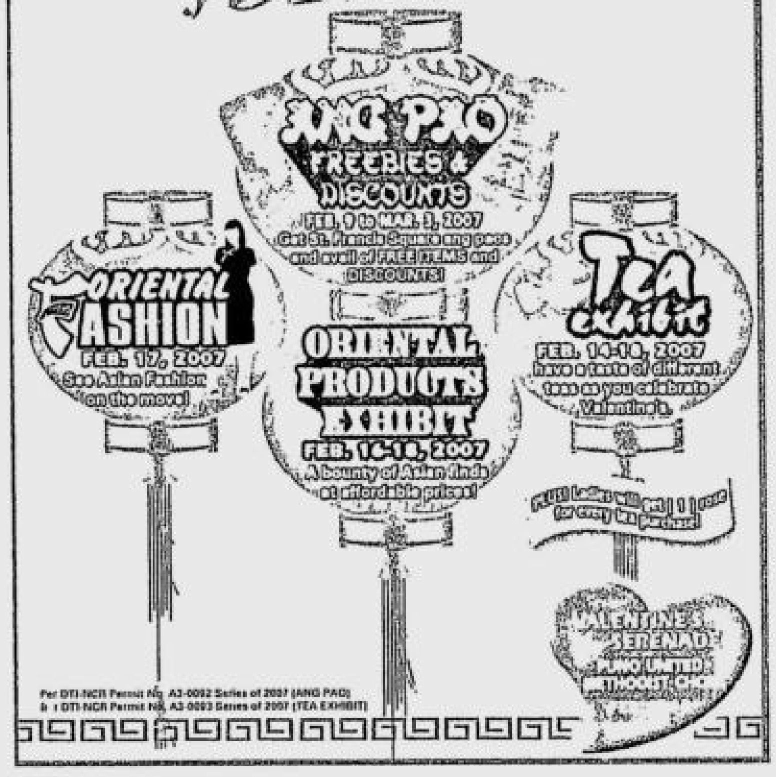

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VALENTINE'S SERENADE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0092 Series of 2007 (ANG PAO)
& DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0093 Series of 2007 (TEA EXHIBIT)

SM MALL OF ASIA presents

February 16-18 Fri-Sun Music Hall
10AM onwards
SOUTH MANILA INTER-INSTITUTIONAL CONSORTIUM FAIR 07

February 16-18 Fri-Sun
South Wing Entertainment Mall
10AM onwards
ADIDAS – ALL STAR WEEKEND

February 18 Sun
5PM
Kung Hei Fat Choi

Celebrate the year of the boar at SM Mall of Asia with an entire day of dragon and lion dance performances. Plus, learn Love and Money Tips for 2007 with Maritess Allen of World of Feng Shui at 3PM, followed at 5PM by a Chinese Cultural presentation by the Halili-Cruz Dance Troupe, and a Kung Hei Fat Choi Mascot Parade. Everything culminates with a Pyromusical at 7PM.

February 23 Friday Music Hall
7PM
MOJITO BAY NITE

Groove to the beats of Peacepipe, Reggae Mistress, and other caribbean-inspired groups.

February 25 Sun Main Mall Atrium
6PM
LANI MISALUCHA AT SM MALL OF ASIA

The Nightingale returns with her chart-topping self-titled album featuring her exquisite renditions of classic love songs. Definitely a world-class diva.

February 25 Sun Music Hall
11AM onwards
LARONG PINOY WITH JOHNSON'S BABY POWDER

A tribute to the traditional Philippine Street games. Sign up and enjoy playing Piko, Sipa, Patintero, Luksong Tinik, and get a chance to win exciting prizes.

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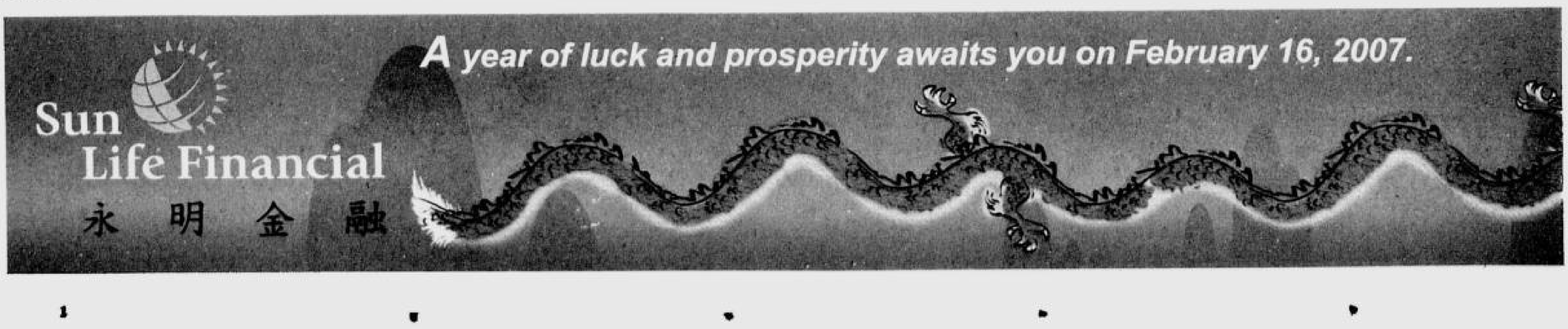

A year of luck and prosperity awaits you on February 16, 2007.

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Runners-up: Apparel

MENDEZ'S "The Trek Suit," quilted jacket of Thai silk and taffeta and rucksack vest of handmade piña-and-banana-fiber paper

"DIRGE" by Ziggy Savella

AZTEC Barba's "Anatomy of the Will"

JOHN Mark Magallanes' "Blue and Confused"

REGINE Dulay's "Saplot"

"S&M" by Raffy Viernes

CHI-CHIE Mendoza-Solomon's "Maria Makiling"

DIMPLE Poly Perez Lim's design didn't make the Top 10 but bagged the Bench Choice Award.

New styles, fresh faces

From page E1

will be vying for honors at the global design contest for young designers this time. In what would have been its 24th edition last year, the contest was called off when its main sponsor quit at the last minute.

That didn't seem to dampen the spirits of aspiring designers as some 600 of them signed up for this year's PFDC.

FDCP president Jesus Lloren, who won the grand prize in Paris in 1998, said an association in Montreal, Canada, had initially promised to take over the December tilt, but the plans didn't pan out.

The council decided to move the PFDC finals four months later than its regular October schedule. FDCP is now eyeing two international design contests, in Tokyo and in New York, where they could field the entries of the PFDC winners.

"It's sad that [the Paris competition] had been canceled," Lloren said, "but we pushed through with the PFDC because this is our way of discovering new talents."

Aside from Lloren, PFDC had produced several winners in Paris, including Frederick Peralta, Dennis Lustico, Gerry Katigbak.

Mendez, this year's Apparel category champion, in fact, got the Prix d'Incitation in 2002 for a design made of *banig*. He was a runner-up in PFDC 2002.

This time, Mendez, 30, bested 21 other finalists for a two-piece design composed of a quilted yellow jacket of taffeta and Thai silk with a leather-brown vest-slash-rucksack, made of piña-and-banana-fiber handmade paper, called "The Trek Suit."

"The competition was supposed to be in October, and that was right after the Philippine mountaineering team reached [the peak of] Mt. Everest," Mendez explained of his design inspiration. "Then we thought the contest would be in Canada in December, so why not a winter dress?" (Incidentally, several contestants seemed to have also had frigid Canada in mind such that there were a number of entries fit for cold climes.)

Mendez's handmade paper material was customized for him by a Japanese firm based in Tagaytay, to achieve his desired leather effect. He used the same material to create peep-toe wedge-heeled boots. The quilted jacket was embroidered trapunto-style.

GERS Qua's "Linlang," Metro Magazine's Choice for Best Apparel

MARK Anton Masa's "The Song of [illegible]"

Twins

On his first try, Paul Herrera took home the prize that has eluded his twin brother, John, for three years in a row. The 25-year-old TV sitcom costume stylist/designer created "Black Monarch," a neckpiece of black and brown duchess satin, taffeta and haircloth butterflies strung with guitar strings.

Herrera, who finished a certificate course in theater arts at the University of the Philippines, had worked as a design assistant for Bea Valdes in the past.

"I like to design earrings most of all, but John advised against it," he explained of his brother, who competed in the Apparel category. "I trust him because he's been in the business longer. And he was right... He's okay with not winning. What's important for him is that he was able to do what he wanted." (John received the trophy on his brother's behalf, who was out of town on finals night.)

Herrera said he and his twin are very close, even as their design aesthetics are poles apart. "John's very avant-garde, while I'm very theatrical. I want drama."

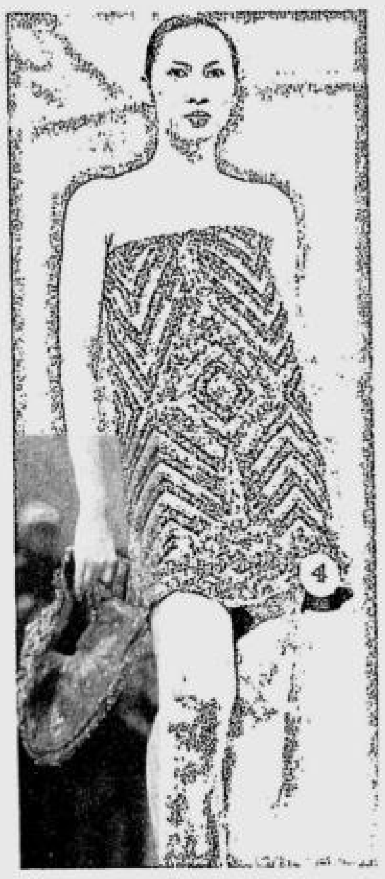
While he tried to keep his entry as lightweight as possible, the young man gave in to his propensity for glitz via tiny crystals ("Japanese, because they're lighter") sewn onto his butterflies.

Nonetheless the piece was understated and "comfortable to wear." It also bagged him Metro Magazine's Choice for Best Accessory award.

Lloren said over half of this year's finalists were students. "That's exactly what we wanted, for contestants to be younger... This is the lightest batch. The clothes are more wearable, no *carroza* designs."

Due to some production mix-up, the names of the runners-up in both categories weren't announced on finals night. They will instead be honored in an FDCP party tomorrow.

Other special awardees were: Rencie Santos, Eye on the Trend accessories award from Ideal Vision; Gers Cua, Metro Magazine Choice for Best Apparel; and Dimple Poly Perez Lim, who bagged an apprenticeship with Bench.



ERIC B. de los Santos' "Lin-ya Sang Kabuhi (Lines of Life)"

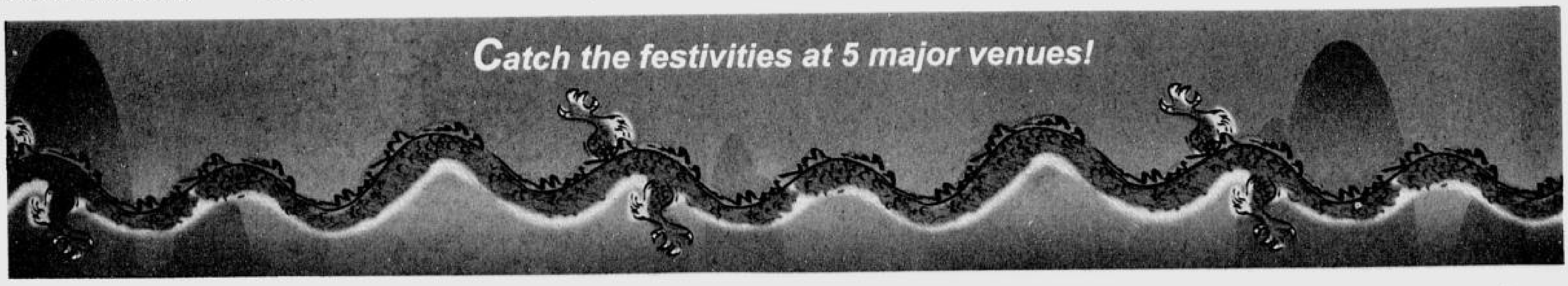
"CASTIGO" by Jerome Allen Lorico"

Runners-up: Accessories

"SILOY (Black Shama)" by Ciege Cagalawan

RENCIE Santos' "Revolution" bags Ideal Vision's Eye on the Trend award.

"KAWASAN" by Roy Sison


Catch the festivities at 5 major venues!

BUENDIA

VITTORIO

PERALTA

KATIGBAK

LLOREN

ASERON

ORTIZ

ashion classic, fashion paleolithic

From page E4

While the likes of Dennis Lustico, Vittorio, Hindy Tantoco, Rajo Laurel, Ivar Aseron, Randy Ortiz and Joey Samson were able to make a fashion statement, certain names such as Gerry Katigbak, Arcy Gayatin and Ricci Lizaso were unable to hide the triteness of their designs.

In the case of the once-brilliant Katigbak, more is the pity since he can't seem to get out of a creative rut, and has simply been content to produce no-brainers like summer caftans and "Passage to India" looks year in and year out.

Will we ever see the day when he goes back to producing real and "intelligent" clothes that don't border on the lazy and the costume-y?

If Katigbak remained an immovable object, Nono Palmos veered too far off from his established orbit. The exponent of exquisite native finery did something out of character by fashioning a red-and-blue ensemble consisting of a hooded jacket and slim pants.

If Filipiniana was still his underlying theme, then the only missing elements were white accessories to complete the tricolors of the flag.

Colors and skin

Speaking of colors, if fashionistas were to follow the designers' lead, then they'd better stock up on outfits in solid colors like white and gradating shades from champagne to lilac, lavender to violet.

Not a few of the featured outfits also showed a fair amount of skin.

(While we're on the subject of skin, certain models who dared to bare theirs in the FDCP show need to hit the gym or else find alternative careers. Their girth have become a huge dampener to the designers' dresses.

(Anorexic models, while a big problem in Europe, will certainly never reach epidemic proportions in this town of overly healthy mannequins.)

In fact, one of the evening's most wearable yet highly visual pieces was Lustico's soft, teal-blue cashmere crepe dress that draped and flattered the wearer's figure.

Vittorio's white stretched cotton mini with painterly splotches of neon yellow likewise carried some punch via minimal details such as extended shoulders, shirring and ruffles on the bodice that mimicked a tuxedo shirt. The skirt's length, however, was far from flattering.

Laurel's iridescent Grecian-inspired number was a tad too stiff, but it was striking enough to earn a place in our list of noteworthy dresses. Due to its flamboyant cut and material, however, there was no denying the fact that the same piece had already debuted in last year's "Metrowear."

Volume was also evident in Frederick Peralta's larger-than-life 1960s-inspired embroidered and beaded empire dress made of silk organza and soft illusion tulle in such wine colors as violet, magenta and blue.

Indeed, this is the type of iconic dress you can probably wear only once in your life unless you party with a group of aliens in another galaxy. No kidding! Peralta's chosen silhouette and material—as always—were that "impactful."

Fans and foes can say anything they want about Peralta's work, but they can never accuse him of creating boring pieces.

Also iconic, but to a lesser degree, was Jojie Lloren's scarlet empire number with dozens upon dozens of zippers that twisted and coiled every which way around the chest area.

Now, if only the designers went beyond their self-imposed one-piece quota, then a good number of fashionistas would have had a clearer idea on what salient trends they wished to impart.

TANTOCO

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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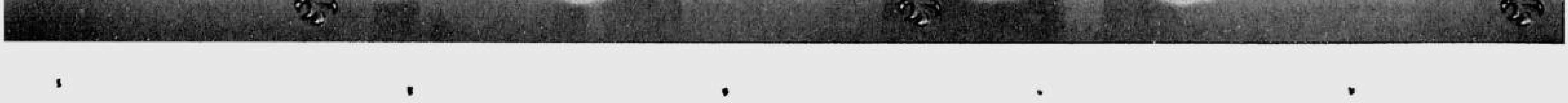
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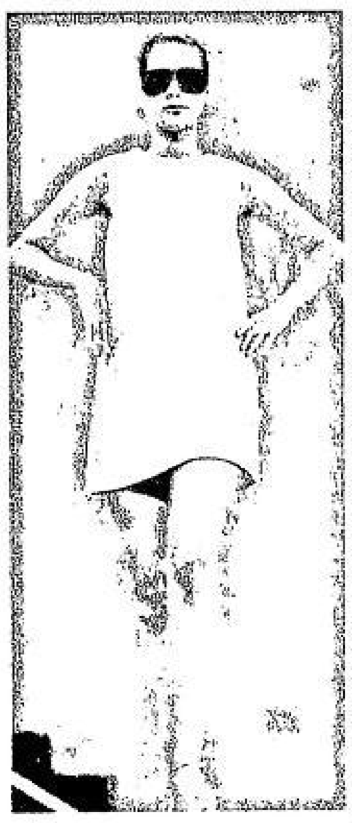

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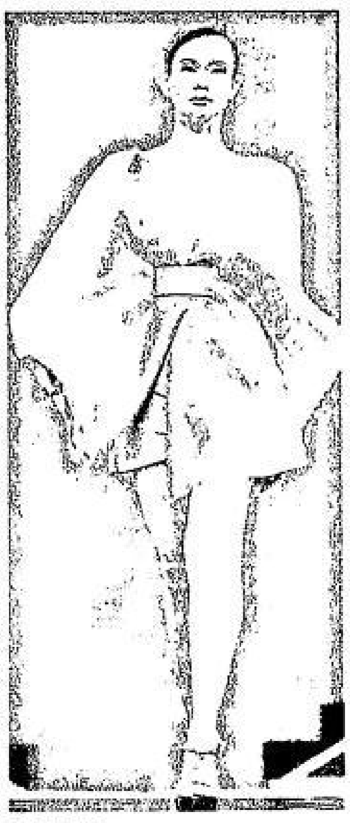


LAUREL

SAMSON

Fashion classic, fashion paleolithic

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

MEMBERS OF THE FASHION Design Council of the Philippines recently staged one of their leanest but not necessarily meanest trend shows in recent memory at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Divided into several segments that mirrored either their chosen silhouettes or intents, the show was intended as a curtain-raiser for the main event, a back-to-back competition featuring the works of some of the country's up-and-coming accessories and clothes designers (see related story).

To welcome new designers, established designers dusted off old, tired ideas

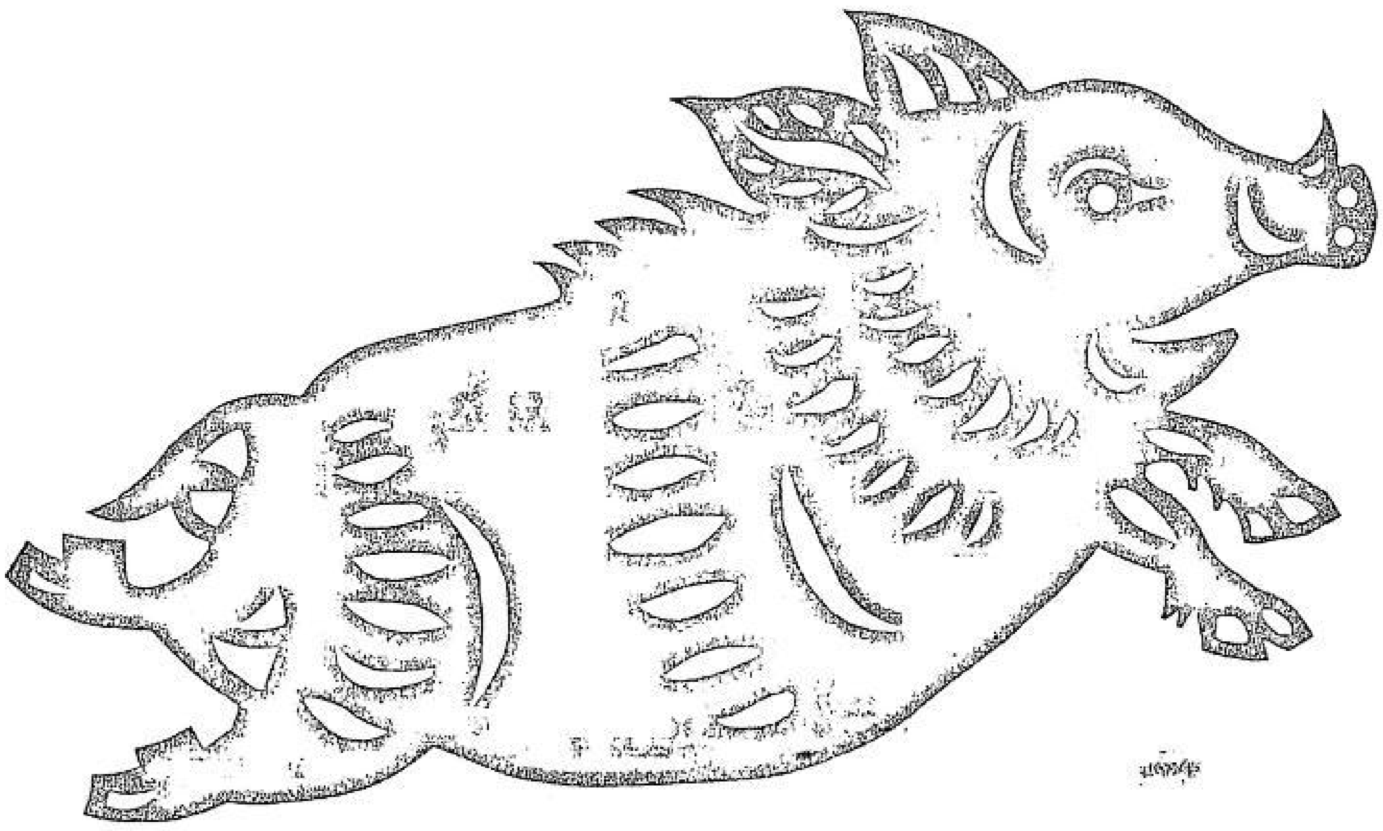
Apart from being strangely content to show one piece each (could it be a sign of the hard times?), several designers simply dusted off or reworked old staples. Such an attempt to come up with something new using something old fooled no one but the designers.

The abbreviated approach was also a double-edged sword that worked for and against certain members.

FASHION CLASSIC/ E3

LUSTICO

Kong Hsi Fa Chai!



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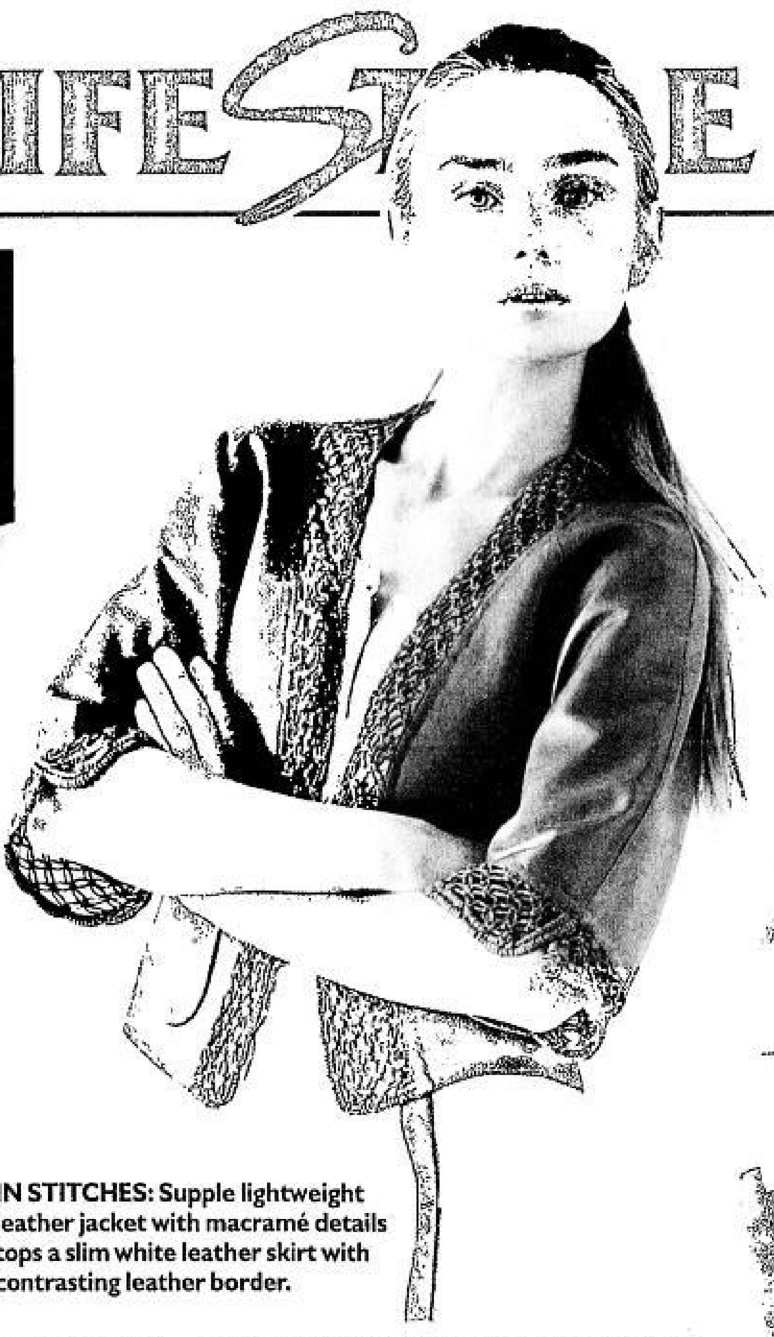
GRAEME Black

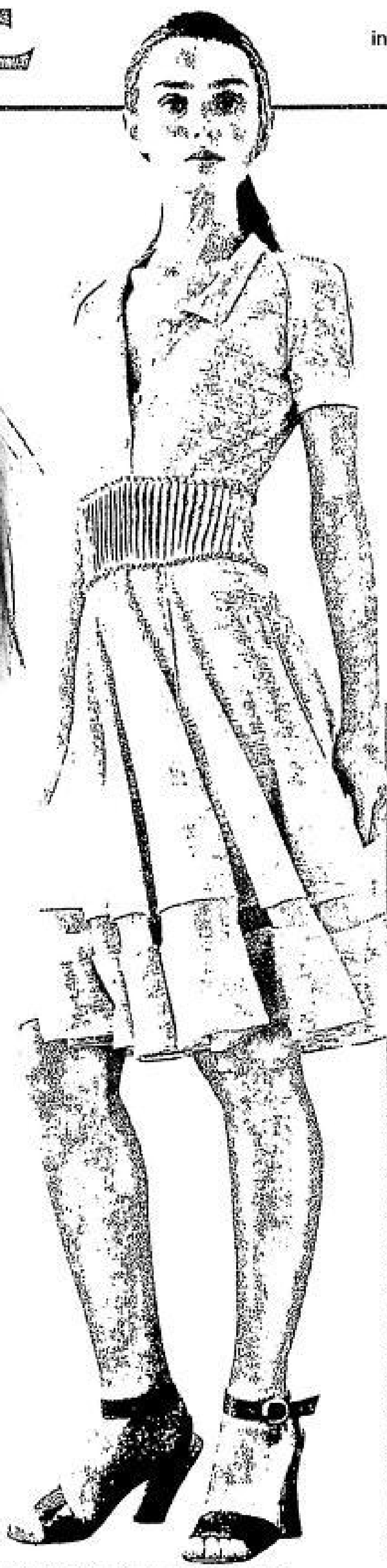
JONATHAN Reed

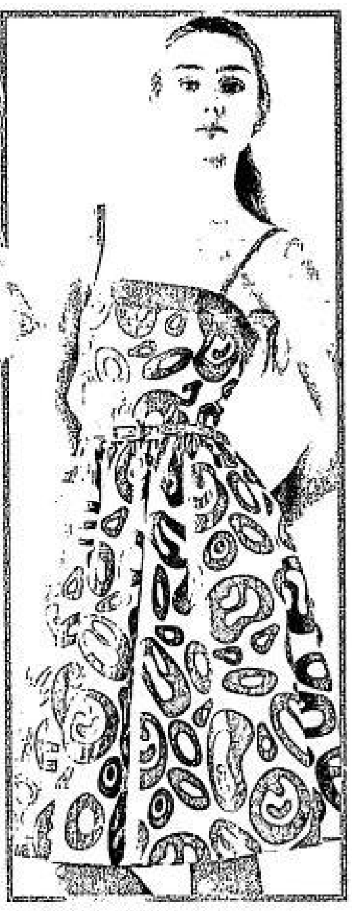
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Black magic

He is head designer for women's ready-to-wear at Salvatore Ferragamo and his private label is a hit in HK


IN STITCHES: Supple lightweight leather jacket with macramé details tops a slim white leather skirt with contrasting leather border.


BREEZY yet practical Black number in linen jaspe knit with sheerly opaque inserts on hem and waistline


WHAT looks like a tan-and-white printed dress is really white chintz appliquéd with leather.

By Kitty Go
Contributor

LAST MONTH, LANE CRAWford in Hong Kong held a private viewing of Graeme Black, one of the most impressive lines to hit elite levels of international fashion—as in nothing under USD 1,000. It is no surprise then that Hong Kong's largest specialty store reserved the Spring/Summer 2007 collection's initial private viewing for its platinum members.

Ferragamo RTW

Aside from this eponymous label which is only on its second season, Graeme Black is also head designer for women's ready-to-wear at Salvatore Ferragamo. Many industry watchers have noticed a fresher look to the Ferragamo line and much of it can be attributed to the creativity and style that Black recently imbued into the label. (Check out the sexy, new spike-heeled and sling backed iconic "gross-grain bow pumps," long the footwear staple among Manila's *matrona* brigade.)

The Milan-based Graeme Black label, however, is the designer's creative project with partner Jonathan Reed, who is also an interior decorator based in London.

"With this label, Graeme is free to create something that reflects everything he personally likes," said Reed, as he presented the collection to the INQUIRER. "We do not show at fashion weeks because they are too costly. Our line is very special and trunk shows have proven to be the best way to present it."

Like many in-house designers for international brands such as Ferragamo, Black has a commitment to bringing in sales and that includes designing what should please an ultimately large customer base.

The Graeme Black label, however, is a personal design endeavor that embodies his philosophy of individuality and creativity. Using the exceptional standards Ferragamo is known for, Black has created one of the most sophisticated and subtle looks, with close to couture-like finishes, available at retail.

Exclusivity

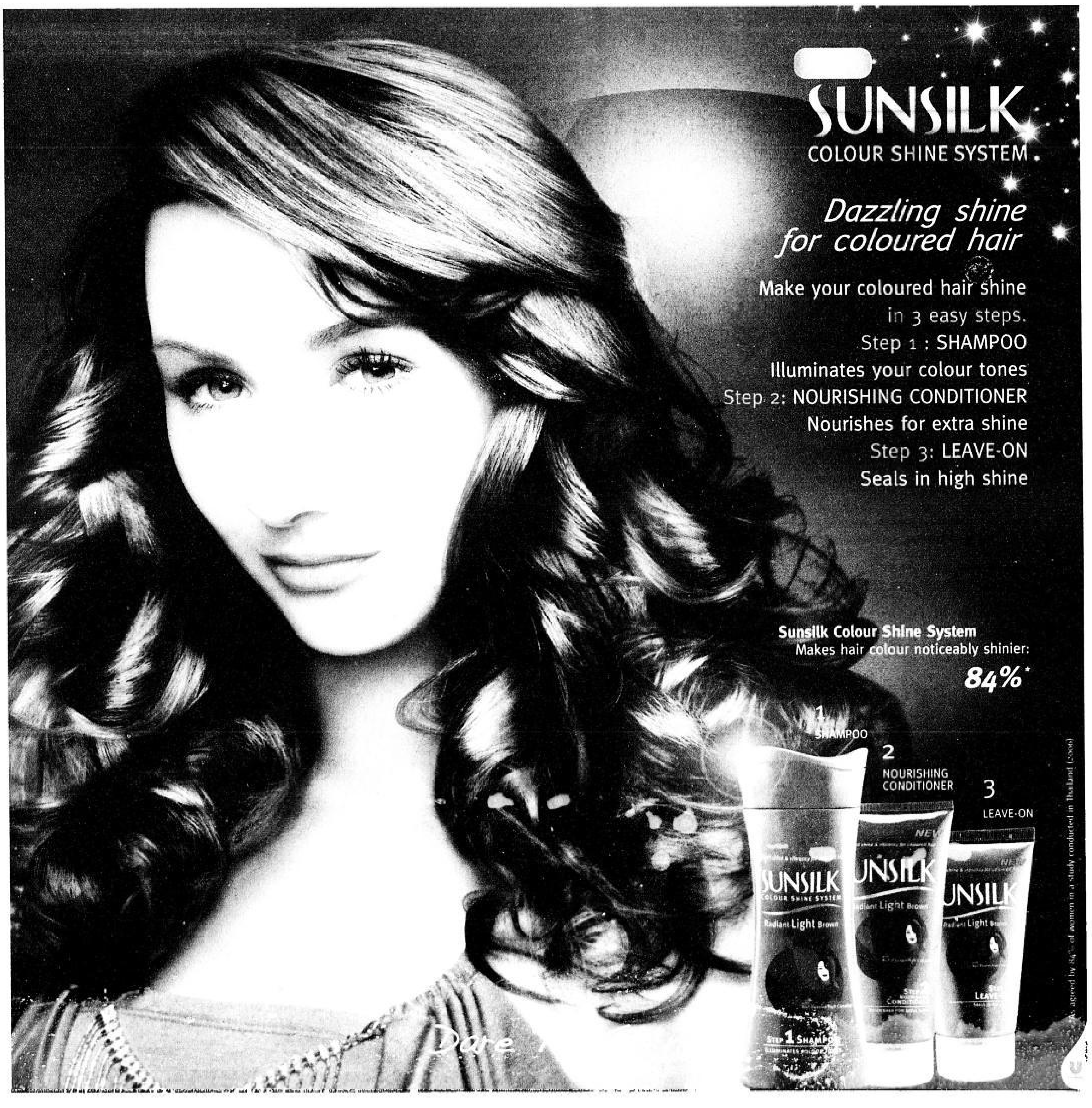
Already, his first collection has been snapped up by retail tastemaker Brown's and Harvey Nichols in London and Neiman-Marcus in America. Tight quality control, only the best materials and detailed Italian hand-crafting force the production to be kept small. Many luxury goods houses tout exclusivity without attention to quality but aside from couture, you may not experience exclusivity until you know Graeme Black.

A beautiful cognac-colored, three-fourth sleeved unlined leather jacket trimmed with leather strips woven in macramé style may set you back HK$ 26,000, but there are only 16 of its kind. In the world!

A weightless tan jacket betrays the fact that it is reversible into white leather. The shy Black takes it from me, crumples it and says, "This is the kind of thing that travels well. You can throw it in your suitcase and wear any side with anything!"

What looks like a simple polka-dotted white cotton skirt from afar is really a lightweight, precision cut and intricately finished lambskin skirt with eye-popping threaded circles held by minute rivets.

The Spring/Summer 2007 collection was inspired by a British sculptor's work, home and abstract paintings. What many fans have dubbed as "wearable art" has indeed been inspired by art.


SUNSILK
COLOUR SHINE SYSTEM

Dazzling shine for coloured hair

Make your coloured hair shine
in 3 easy steps.
Step 1 : SHAMPOO
Illuminates your colour tones
Step 2: NOURISHING CONDITIONER
Nourishes for extra shine
Step 3: LEAVE-ON
Seals in high shine

Sunsilk Colour Shine System
Makes hair colour noticeably shinier:
*84%**

*As agreed by 84% of women in a study conducted in Thailand (2006)

7TH CHAIRMAN'S Cup overall winners: second runner-up Jun Farcon, champion Felix Cortez and first runner-up Bernie Capa

AT THE FAIRWAYS & Bluewater 7th Chairman's Cup ceremonial tee off in Newcoast, Boracay. Back row: Geb Bilbao, Paking Maristela, Rep. Joeben Miraflores, Jun Tolentino, Tedd Staley, Greg Barnes, Al Robinson, Felix Gurrea, Leonard Tirol and Steve Tajanlangit. Front row: Joe Peralta, Gregg Pearson, Chris Burns and Bong Tirol

GANG of golfers who work hard and play harder. Fun Steve Tajanlangit, Rep. Joeben Miraflores, Southern sugar baron of the hour Toti Cariño, Ike Guaño and Butz Datinguinoo

Sun, sea, shore and golf

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE GREENS WERE PARTICUlarly greener because of much rainfall in our island in the sun.

As a result, when the popular Fairways & Bluewater in Boracay held its 7th Chairman's Cup golfing event, tons of golfers flew in from all over the country to have fun and enjoy the greens, *natch*.

The golfing event is held annually as a way to thank hotshot Fairways & Bluewater members.

What made it even better was southern gentleman **Noel "Tito" Cariño**, Fairways & Bluewater's mega-chair, celebrating his birthday, *palanggas*.

The chair, together with his brilliant team led by Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club resort manager; vivacious **Baby Ignacio**; and golf director, *el guapo* **Geb Bilbao**, welcomed the ready-to-roll golfers, at the 18-hole par 72 championship and luxury golf course.

Felix Cortez emerged as overall champion. **Bernie Capa** was first runner-up and **Jun Farcon** was second runner-up.

It was two days of "golfing bliss" which ended with fun-fun cocktails and an excellently prepared buffet spread by no less than expert caterer Via Mare. **Ralph Joseph** of Ralph's Wines & Spirits provided the wines.

The reliable Asian Spirit was a cosponsor, *palanggas*.

Musical performances were rendered by international musical sensation **Leo Valdez**, **Eugene Villaluz** and the New Minstrels.

The party saw the golfers enjoying the night, the beach and the greenery. The party finished late and everyone went home in high spirits, dahlings.

Shang at 15

It's already been 15 awesome years, *palanggas*, that the popular lifestyle mall, Shangri-La Plaza, has been packing in shoppers.

To mark its 15th year, the mall held a retail-partner appreciation party at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong.

The Shang's indefatigable general manager, **Lala Fojas**, expressed her gratitude "to all the retail partners, especially those who have been with the Shang since it opened on November 1991."

In his remarks, brilliant Shangri-La Plaza chair and president **Andy Bautista** said: "Our retail partners will always be our most valued asset."

The 15th anniversary honorees were House of Minis, Kusina sa Edsa, Sizzling Seafoods, Jollibee, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Rustan's Supermarket, Rustan's Department Store, Bon Appetit and National Bookstore, *natch*!

Other honorees were Almeda Optical, Kameraworld, Celine, J. Viñas Optical, K. Velayo, The Big & Small, Tai Ping Rugs & Carpet, Bloomingdales, Ricky Reyes, Hong Kong Hardware and Toby's Sport House.

Once the awarding was over, the party got on a roll with the fab performer **Jay Cayuca** who so pleased the invitees that they asked for an encore. His performance was followed by the swinging Composed Band, dahlings.

UST Tigers take Yoshinoya challenge

Yoshinoya, that super Japanese fastfood famous for its popular yummy Gyudon beef and chicken bowls, has unveiled a chic new look and exciting new meals as it celebrated five years of solid presence in the country, *palanggas*.

Top executives from Yoshinoya D&C Japan, led by the director of international department **Takashi Abe** and franchise manager **Hiro Kato**, jetted in from Japan to join the happening.

Welcoming the invitees was the very pleased **Ricardo Po Sr.**, Century Pacific Group chair, with his two sons, cybersmart executives **Chris Po**, president, and **Leo Po**, business unit head.

"We are pleased to present the new Yoshinoya concept in celebration of our fifth year of serving authentic and high-quality Japanese food at affordable prices," said Leo Po, *palanggas*.

Guests included the hotshot 2006 UAAP basketball champions, the Univesity of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers with their coach, **Pido Jarencio**.

Apparently, the Tigers were big Yoshinoya fans and they accepted Yoshinoya's Gyudon challenge: to gobble up as many bowls in 20 minutes and kick off the Gyudon Eating Contest promo and the Gyudon raffle.

Needless to say, the tall and hungry Tigers bowled over the competition.

With overflowing Gyudon bowls and tons of fun plus the UST Tigers, it was the only way to celebrate Yoshinoya's five successful great years, dahlings!

Body Shop's Bicol aid

The Body Shop Philippines, that popular and environmentally concerned shop, in line with its global commitment toward "corporate social responsibility" has been involved in several developmental projects that respond to the needs of various communities.

Late last year, given the vast devastation brought about by the super typhoon "Reming," the company decided to focus on relief efforts and launched the "Help Rebuild Bicol" Campaign, *palanggas*.

The Body Shop turned over a truckload of relief goods to the "Sagip Kapamilya" warehouse, for repacking and eventual distribution to Bicol.

Last Jan. 18, The Body Shop turned over a cool P1 million to the foundation as part of its additional relief funding for the Bicol campaign.

The donation ceremonies were held at The Body Shop in Glorietta. The executives thanked those who supported the campaign, *palanggas*.

Incidentally, The Body Shop timed the event for its Glorietta store's reopening.

"Each store is a place not only to sell products but also ideas and values," said PR gal **Gabbie Avanceña-Ricafort**, *natch*!

MARLINE Dualan, Lailani Sy and Anton Gonzales

KAREN Fernandez, Monica Salvador and Cristina Gomez

LOYALTY award for Helen and Bobby Claudio of Toby's

LOYALTY award for Jojo Marcelo of KFC

BERGAMO—2006 grand prize and fashion boutique category winner of the window display contest. EVP and GM of Shangri-La Plaza Lala Fojas; Roland Magalang; and Andy Bautista, SLPC chair and president

SHOPWISE'S Donnie Tantoco

JOYLON Tiglao

EYE-CATCHING mother-and-daughter tandem. Marietta Goco and daughter Manna Goco of the popular Cyma Greek Resto with Lala Fojas, EVP and GM of Shangri-La Plaza

BEAUTIFUL couple. Michelle and Alvin de la Peña

LOYALTY award for Jesus and Chit Bautista of Bloomingdales

WORLD-CLASS balladeer, southern gent Leo Valdez, and Fairways & Bluewater resort manager, vivacious Baby Ignacio

LOGIE Logarta, Yoshinoya director for operations; Annie Valencia, Century Pacific Group purchasing manager; and Tato Borromeo, Yoshinoya marketing manager

THEY can't enough of Yoshinoya. Art Mendoza, Nikki Mendoza, Angel Villanueva and Karl Ty

NELSON Gascon and Joseph Pineda. Seated: Bobby Fautiston, Manny Uy and Dennis R. Mendoza

TAKASHI Abe, director for international department, Yoshinoya D & C, congratulates Ricardo Po Sr., chair of Century Pacific Group, on its fifth year of excellent service.

DR. EDWARD Huang, Vicente Muñoz and Emmanuel del Rosario

IPE MATIBAG and gorgeous Roxanne Guinoo

ABS-CBN'S Gina Lopez receives the check from Dr. Silvia Huang and Mike Muñoz

Kicking up color and shine

Sunsilk Colour Shine System provides special care to colored hair

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

NATURAL browns made shinier by George Bantolino of Sir George Salon

BLACK elegant hair with highlights styled by Gio Ledesma of David's Salon

NELSON Cruz of Essensuals Toni & Guy and his models with the drama and vibrancy of burgundy.

GIO LEDESMA of David's Salon showcases his dazzling and elegant black hair interpretation.

MARY Pauline Danga and Bantolino bring to life the natural beauty of brown.

INTERNATIONAL guest stylist Douglas Lillico of Philip George Salon Hong Kong shares with local salon practitioners the Psychology of Hair Color at the Color Convention.

ALTHOUGH MANY FILIPINAS have started experimenting with hair color, many still remain unaware that colored hair needs special care. Thus, they end up using regular hair products that do not provide the extra care that their newly colored tresses require.

This is something that the people behind Sunsilk seek to change. With the launch of the Sunsilk Colour Shine System, hair experts hope that more women (and men) will learn to recognize the special needs of their treated hair.

Colored hair (which is more susceptible to damage compared with virgin hair) requires extra-conditioning and nutrients in order to preserve the color.

At the recent Sunsilk Hair Color Convention held at Edsa-Shangri-La hotel, some top Manila hair stylists spoke about hair concerns and hair maintenance. They were Douglas Lilico of the Philip George Salon Hong Kong, Nelson Cruz of Essensuals Tony & Guy, George Bantolino of Sir George Salon, and Gio Ledesma of David's Salon.

They presented their own interpretations of the latest hair-color trends, and answered questions from the public about hairstyles, styling tricks, and gave tips for caring for colored hair. They also fielded questions from a special panel of fashion and beauty editors including Marie Claire beauty editor Marie Calica, Metro magazine editor in chief Melanie Cuevas, Mega magazine beauty editor Vicky Tensuan and Cosmopolitan beauty editor Mariel Chua.

Museum models

Aside from sponsoring the Hair Color Convention, Sunsilk also launched the Museum of Color and Style, which featured 11 women achievers from various fields: model and photographer Jo Ann Bitagcol; model and yoga instructor Raya Mananquil; singer Savannah Lumen; model and designer Mika Lagdameo; theater actress China Cojuangco; designer Debbie Co; musician Alessandra Tinio; dermatologist Anna Palabyab; newscaster Andi Manzano; TV reporter Marie Lozano; and Divine Lee of Globe Asiatique.

The women showed off their freshly colored hair, courtesy of the partner salons.

Manzano, Cojuangco and Lagdameo went to Sir George Salon for a natural brown tint. Tinio and Co went for burgundy locks at Toni & Guy. Bitagcol, Lozano, Palabyab and Mananquil went to David's Salon for jet-black tresses.

The women were featured in glamorous beauty photos taken by Victor Consunji, which photos were exhibited at the Shangri-La Hotel.

Sunsilk's new Color Shine System comes in three variants: Radiant Light Brown, Dazzling Shiny Black, and Vibrant Burgundy.

Formulated to maintain (and not deepen or lighten) hair color, the three-step system, which contains shampoo, conditioner and a leave-on treatment, is enriched with special ingredients: Radiant Light Brown contains passion fruit; Dazzling Shiny Black has a black pearl complex; and Vibrant Burgundy has a red cherry complex.

VIBRANT burgundy hair styled by Nelson Cruz of Essensuals Toni & Guy.

BASEMENT'S Stefan Wilczynski at the Color Convention.

POLO DIVISION
THE MANE PEOPLE. David Charlton of David's Salon; Evelyn Alvaran-Cruz of Hair Asia; and Louis Phillip Kee of Razzle Dazzle

Post-Valentine gifts for different personalities

MAKEOVER 911
Kinny Salas

FOR THE MEN reading: If you were not able to get your girls Valentine's Day gifts, then this article may address her concerns.

For the woman who is obsessed with acne scars, pigmentation, freckles and ever-increasing deep wrinkles, Obagi has come up with a special promotion package which runs until supplies last. A standard Obagi set costs P18,700, VAT-inclusive, and contains a Cleanser, Toner, Clear, Exfoderm, Blender and Age-defying Cream. The promo kit costs P21,000, VAT-inclusive, but comes with an extra Clear, "the potent skin whitener and scar/pigmentation fader," which usually runs out first because it is used day and night.

Obagi has also thrown in two non-greasy sun blocks with SPF 35 in a 30-ml size and a 57-g SPF 32 sunblock which is perfect for daily use. Of course, avoiding the beach and exposure to direct sunlight for long periods of time is still recommended.

With the promo kit, you get a savings of P9,000 from your total bill if you bought the extras individually. The Clear alone costs about P6,000. Call 8442939.

Jeweled scent

How many women do you know would love to own a Bulgari? Of course, only the very select few have the income to spare to be able to afford Bulgari jewelry. But most of us can afford its fragrances.

In true Bulgari fashion the latest fragrances have a very subtle classic elegance that one needs to stand very close to smell the woman: the Omnia Amethyste (P3,798 at 40 ml), exclusively available at Watson's.

The latest scent is perfect for one who was also born on February or loves the color violet. This very subtle clean fragrance can be worn by a woman who is as young as 18 all the way to 80.

Top notes are refreshing green sap and pink grapefruit; middle notes are iris and Bulgarian rose bud; the lingering notes, although woody, are still very feminine—Heliotrope and Solar woods.

Another Bulgari scent is Rose Essentielle (P4,798), available in all Rustan's, SM and Robinson's department stores.

This is the classic Bulgari Pour Femme incorporated successfully with the Ottoman Rose. It has additional blends of jasmine, blackberry, patchouli and violet leaves, which are still subtle but much sexier. This rose can be worn all year round and is perfect for a bride. Although not the usual grandma scent, it is not for women under 26 years of age, in my humble opinion.

Cosmetics

One thing about spring makeup is that its colors are usually best on very light- to medium-skinned ladies. I have named certain pieces though that will work on anybody.

Lancôme's Spring 2007 collection called Pop Cherub was inspired by Kirsten Dunst as Marie Antoinette. If your woman is a pale-skinned girly girl, she will love the collection.

One of my favorites from the collection is the Color Fever Lipsticks (P1,350 each) which are sheer toned to complement every girl's lips regardless of skintone. It provides rich moisture to hydrate the lips minus the tacky shine, and deposits fine shimmer to make lips fuller.

Also a favorite is Fuchsia Breva or Rose Sharma. It could be your best gift bet. Beige Loo should only be worn over color or by the very pale-skinned when alone.

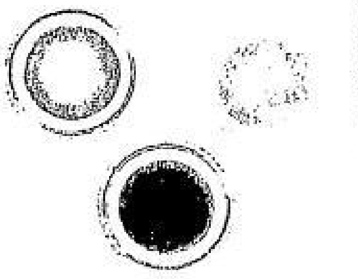
Magic Blush (P1,995 each, in Rose Zephir or Rose Altzen) has a cooling mousse texture that looks like a flush from within. The eyes are highlighted by pastel and shimmer and the star product for that area is Tracer Design, a shimmery liquid eyeliner that makes the eyes open up (P1,995), and two variations of five eye shadow palettes (P3,495). If her makeup style is conservative, skip the Tracer Design.

Shu Uemura's Paradox collection is another one of its limited-editions designed to make girls go crazy with makeup lust. I have streamlined my favorites so you can decide more easily:

Liquid Eyebrow (P1,850) is the easiest way to groom yourself. You can fill in your eyebrows in a matter of seconds (using the traditional pencil would take several minutes).

Gloss Lacquer (P1,350), in Florescent Pink and Vivid Violet, gives a slight tinge of color with high shine.

Glow on Vicious Apricot blush (P1,950) only registers if she has light skin so skip it if she enjoys being tanned. Get her the nail polish instead, either in Pearly Pink or Rose Beige (P995 each). The cosmetic complements every skintone.


SHU UEMURA Gloss Lacquer in Florescent Pink, Baby Pink and Vivid Violet

BULGARI Omnia Amethyste

LANCÔME Magic Blush in Rose Zephir

OBAGI Enhance System

Search for top hairdressers ongoing

SCHWARZKOPF PROFESSIONAL, a leading supplier of hairdressing products, will present the winners in its Search for the Philippine Hairdresser of the Year, Apr. 17, at the RCBC Plaza in Makati.

Contestants are vying for the title of Philippine Hairdresser of the Year. Awards will also be given in five categories: Men's, Commercial, Team of the Year, Avant Garde and Newcomer.

Winners will then compete in the Asia Hairdressing Awards in October with the Philippines as host.

Participating in the contest are hairdressers who have worked in a commercial environment for a minimum of three years. Contestants must be of Asian origin. Foreign hairdressers are allowed to participate if they have worked in the Philippines for the last two years and have a work permit.

Participants in the Newcomer of the Year Category must be qualified hairdressers who are salon-based, have a working experience of at least two years and are under 25 years of age before the deadline for entries.

The Asia Hairdresser of the Year will receive a trophy and will have the chance to attend the British Hairdressing Awards ceremony in London as a special guest of Schwarzkopf.

Other winners in the regional competition will also each receive a trophy and an invitation to the special Asia Hairdressing Awards Finalists Only Seminar.

The winners of the last competition were: Jeoffrey Moran of Emphasis Salon Rockwell, Philippine Hairdresser of the Year and winner in the Avant Garde Category; Emphasis Salon Rockwell, consisting of Jeoffrey Moran, Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, Lourd Ryan Ramos and Leodegario Rivera, Team of the Year; Bong Aparente of Profiles Salon, Men's Style Category winner; Paolo Olandez of Fix Bench, Glorietta 4, Commercial Style Category winner; and Rey Dolorzo of Profiles Salon, Newcomer of the Year.

Schwarzkopf Professional is part of the business unit cosmetics/toiletries of the Henkel Group, Düsseldorf. It is one of the leading suppliers in the hairdressing business worldwide.

Schwarzkopf Professional's well known international brands include Igora (color); Seah Hairspa and Bc Bonacure (care); Osis and Silhouette (styling); as well as Natural Styling and Strait Styling (form).

2006 Hairdresser of the Year and winner in the Avant Garde Category is Jeoffrey Moran of Emphasis Salon Rockwell.

GOINGS ON

Dinner-dance for 20th year

THE ATENEO SCHOOLS PARENTS Council (Aspac), composed of parents of college students in the Loyola Schools of the Ateneo de Manila University, celebrates its 20th anniversary with a grand reunion and dinner-dance Feb. 17, 7 p.m., at the Camp Crame Multipurpose Center in Quezon City. The event will be highlighted by the launch of the Aspac commemorative coffee-table book documenting the story of parent volunteerism at the Ateneo. The raffle draw for the ongoing fund drive Rafol '06-'07 Para sa Aspac Skolars will also be held during the event. Aspac can be reached at 4265691 or 4266001 local 5190, 9216834/9248339 or 7254743/7244268.

IDEAL THOMASIANS CROWNED TODAY. The 2007 Ideal Thomasian Personalities will be crowned 5:30 p.m. today at Plaza Mayor, University of Santo Tomas. This year's candidates are Mark David Alabang (Accountancy), Yannick Tuason and Jasmine Marie Urcia (Architecture), Bryan Christian Ilagan and Royce Anne Katrine Estella (Pharmacy), Enrique Cruz and Maria Beatriz Burlaza (Nursing), Young Il Kang and Jesika Jorden Hebron (Science), Mark Reginald de la Cruz and Sandra Santos (Commerce), Jonah Ruiz and Jaenna Catherine Peralta (Conservatory of Music), Charles Arevalo and Yvette Leon (Education), James Raymund Volante and Kris Marcia Cruz (Rehabilitation Sciences), Ryan Kristian Alimon and Melissa de los Santos (Arts and Letters), Edric Ching and Maria Francesca Tingcungcong (Fine Arts and Design), Don Earl Narona and Katherine Montales (Engineering). The annual event looks for ambassadors of goodwill from the different UST colleges. This year's theme is "The Mannequin."

FESTIVAL. To celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival and usher in the Year of the Fire Boar with a big bang, enjoy the biggest Chinese blockbusters at the Ateneo Springfest Film Festival at the Gateway Cineplex until Feb. 18. The festival showcases great cinematic masterpieces such as "Xanda," "Shanghai Dreams," "The Monkey King," "Sunflower," "Little Red Flowers," and "I Not Stupid." Also, be enthralled with "Thrills of Spring: Grand Acrobatic Show" featuring the best Chinese showmen at Araneta Coliseum Feb. 18. Authentic Chinese items at affordable prices are available at Gateway China Bazaar until Feb. 24, with a dragon and lion dance to welcome the opening of this year's biggest Chinese bargain exhibit happening at the mall's fourth level. The China Bazaar also offers fun-filled activities to spice up the New Year. Learn to cook Asian specialties with cooking demos by the Center for Culinary Arts Feb. 17 and see what the year 2007 has in store with the Feng Shui 2007 Forecast from World of Feng Shui president Maritess Allen Feb. 18, 11 a.m.

ORCHID SALE. The first Open-house Exhibit and Sale of the Pozorrubio Orchidarium is ongoing until Feb. 18. The orchidarium is at National Highway, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan (open route to Baguio or Ilocos). Discounts will be given on euphorbias, vandas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, cattleyas and other ornamentals. Orchidarium owner Remy Rodis Santelices is president of the Orchid Breeders' Association of the Philippines and director of the Philippine Orchid Society and member of the Philippine Horticultural Society.

CELEBRATION. Learn more about the mystical powers of jade and how it can bring good fortune in the Year of the Fire Boar at "Kung Hei Fat Choi! A Chinese New Year Celebration at Canyon Ranch." Canyon Ranch, the WiFi-integrated community developed by Century Properties (tel. 8189025, 8937050, 0915-7002000; website www.century-properties.com), welcomes the Chinese New Year Feb. 18 with a Chinese lunch buffet, fortune cookies, dragon and lion dances, and free consultations with feng shui expert Aldric Dalumpines. Jade necklaces and trinkets will be given away.

SALE. Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Starmills and Robinsons Place Bacolod hold Season Sale until Feb. 18. Avail of up to 50 percent discount on selected items.

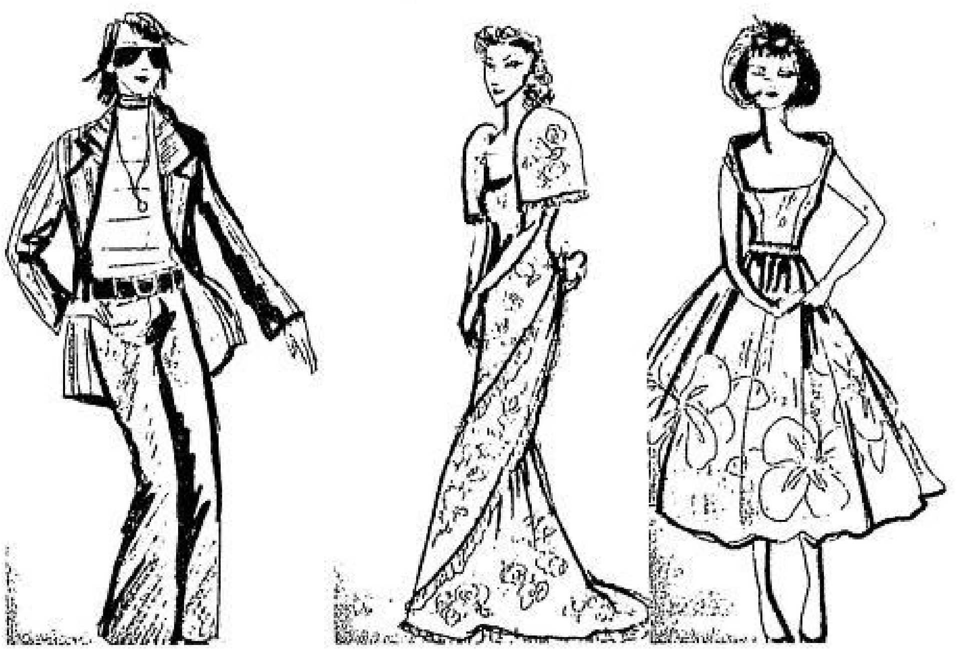
NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR. Enchanted Kingdom's Chinese New Year Spectacular for 2007 features dragons, lions, acrobats, jugglers, stilt walkers, wushu performers and dancers. On Feb. 17-18, DWTM and Enchanted Kingdom host a special Chinese New Year Concert Series. The lion dance will again be featured to bring luck to all guests. The fireworks display, Sky Wizardry, caps weekend evenings. Red envelopes or *ang pao* will be given away to lucky guests until Feb. 18. Parades and shows will be held 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Feb. 24-25. Enchanted Kingdom's resident performers, the Bravura entertainers, will give a special presentation at 1:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. in front of the Rialto Theater. Enchanted Kingdom (tel. 8302111-16 or 8436074-78; website www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph) is in San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

ITALIAN CLASSES. The Philippine Italian Association offers Italian classes for beginners at the PIA Secretariat, 2/F, Zeta Building, 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8151310 or 8927253 for details.

UNLIMITED TEXT AND CALL. Sun Cellular offers Call and Text Unlimited P25 (CTU 25), especially for students on limited budgets. For only P25 a day, students can text and call their classmates' and family members anytime, anywhere without worrying about the cost. Sun Cellular's 24/7 CTU 25 gives unlimited phone calls, too, not just text. The Sun Hotline is 3958000 and the website is www.suncellular.com.ph.

TRADE FAIR. Over 200 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from regions all over the Philippines will participate in the National Trade Fair March 14-18 at SM Megamall. The fair is spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry's Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem). Exhibitors from Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are participating. A special setting of the One Town, One Product program will be on display. The Asean Japan Center (AJC) will conduct a packaging seminar to introduce other packaging ideas and technologies to help make Philippine products more globally competitive.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists, with the Integrated Society of Information Professionals, will hold a seminar-workshop on "Trends and Strategies in Indexing, Cataloging and Abstracting" Feb. 22-24 at the Cooyeesan Plaza Hotel, Naguilian Rd. cor. Asin Rd., Baguio City. Call 7241994, 5278351, 0917-8664357 and 0919-5180128.



Ani tribute to showcase local movies-inspired fashion

FASHION AND THE MOVIES HAVE HAD A love affair for the longest time. They influence one another.

Audrey Hepburn's little black dress in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961) did not just stay on the silver screen. It went on to become a classic, still worn in varying styles all over the world today.

The power of the movies to dictate fashion is shown literally in the recent movie, "The Devil Wears Prada," about a tyrannical fashion editor, Miranda Priestly, played by the glorious Meryl Streep.

"Even from the early days of fashion, what people see in the movies have really played a big influence on what people want to wear in real life," said Edgar San Diego of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP).

To show the synergy between film and fashion, FDAP will stage a glittering fashion revue in music and dance during the first ever Ani Awards, the Mowelfund (Movie Workers Welfare Foundation) Tribute to Filipino Movie Greats.

Slated Feb. 23, 8 p.m., at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City, Ani Awards will honor pillars of show business such as Don José Nepomuceno, Atang de la Rama, Rogelio de la Rosa and Carmen Rosales, Rosa del Rosario, Fernando Poe Jr., Dolphy, and Joseph Estrada.

An important component of the tribute is the FDAP fashion revue featuring designers Raoul Ramirez, Ole Morabe, Roland Lirio, Ramon Esteban, Edgar San Diego, Oskar Peralta, Joel Escobar, Jerome Ang, Gener Gozum, Edgar Madamba, Delby Bragais, Vivo Nazareth, Noli Pilapil and Francis Calaquian.

The designers will present works inspired by movie icons Rosal Rosal, Rogelio de la Rosa, Carmen Rosales, Ric Rodrigo, Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Vilma Santos, Nora Aunor and Sharon Cuneta.

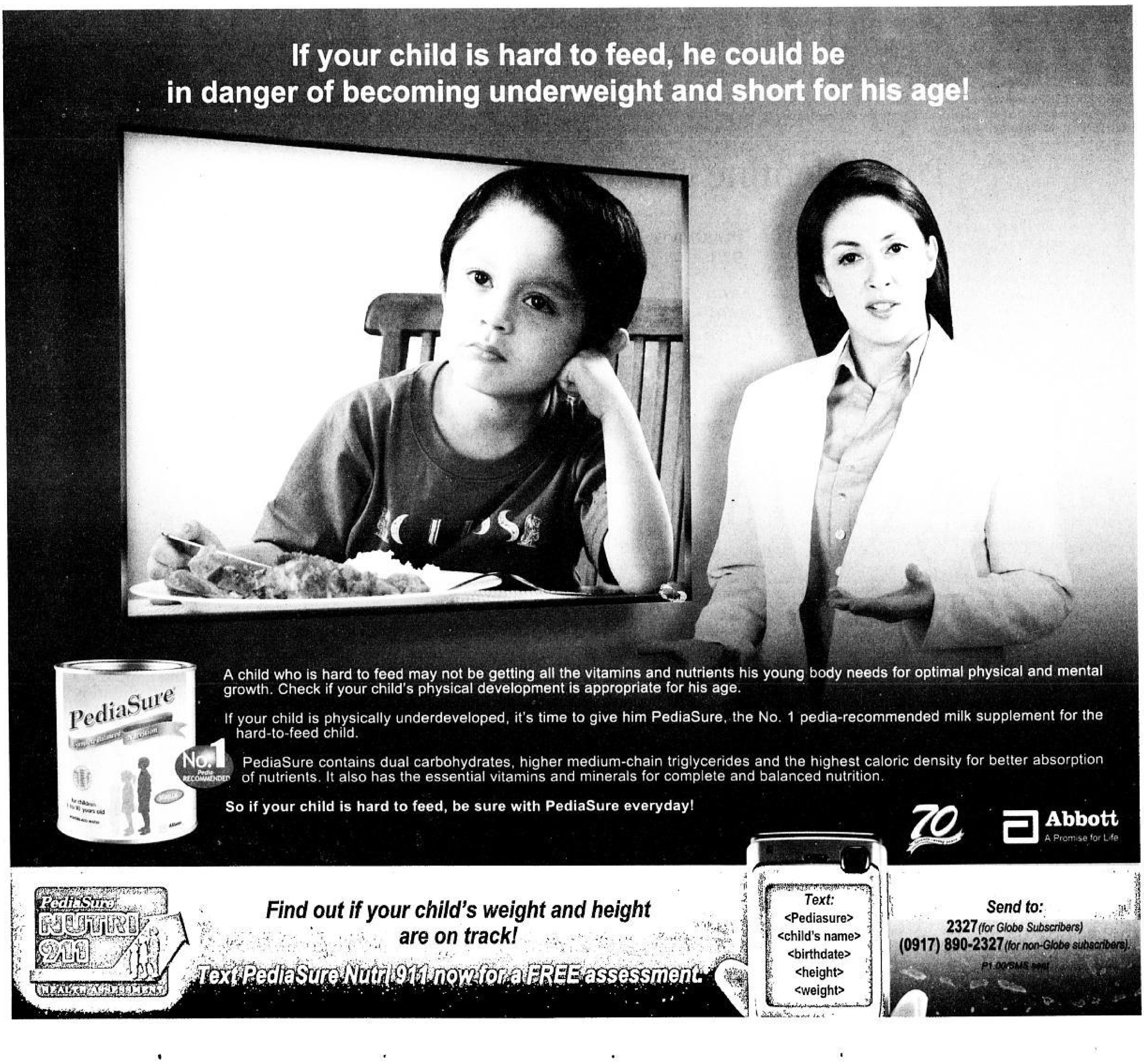
Elegant, classic

Gloria Romero, Nida Blanca, Ramon Revilla and Ric Rodrigo lent an elegant style to the 1950s with their classic good looks that became the toast of the country's premiere designers of the time—Ramon Valera, Pitoy Moreno and Ben Ferrales.

The '60s and '70s stars were also not lacking in glamour. Susan Roces and Amalia Fuentes in mod suits and gowns were a hit with the public.

In the 1970s, actresses Vilma Santos and Nora Aunor showcased a more down-to-earth fashion.

The *bagets* look of the '80s and early '90s was captured by movie idols Aga Muhlach, Sharon Cuneta and Maricel Soriano.



If your child is hard to feed, he could be in danger of becoming underweight and short for his age!

A child who is hard to feed may not be getting all the vitamins and nutrients his young body needs for optimal physical and mental growth. Check if your child's physical development is appropriate for his age.

If your child is physically underdeveloped, it's time to give him PediaSure, the No. 1 pedia-recommended milk supplement for the hard-to-feed child.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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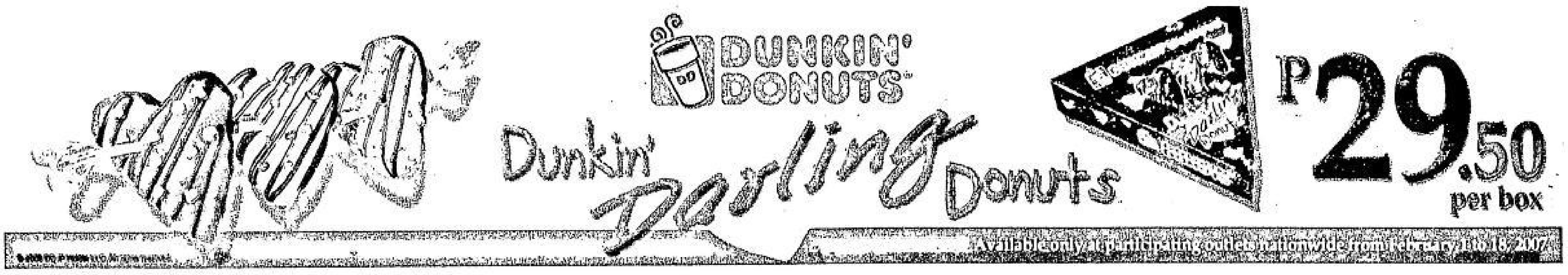
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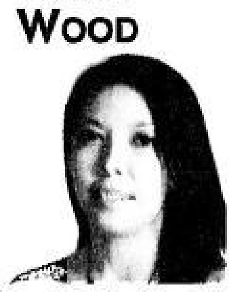
FORMER FLAME? Beauty queen Josephine Canonizado, now known as Josephine Ortiz.

Bong Revilla, rumored ex on same flight

BONG REVILLA MAY DENY THIS, BUT A mutual friend of ours saw him en route to Hong Kong last Friday on the same flight that a rumored ex—beauty queen **Josephine Canonizado**—took. Ex-es of a feather fly together?

Heard that Josephine Canonizado changed her last name to Ortiz when she was launched as an endorser for a whitening cream along with **Daisy Reyes**. Their billboard is across Megamall. Since Josephine had earlier been pinpointed as an ex of Bong's (he is said to have given her a beauty parlor), maybe she wanted to avoid name recall. Is she just playing a name game or playing with fire?

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

Drunken brawl

KC Montero, Jojo Manlongat and some friends caused a commotion in Pier One at The Fort. They were seen picking a fight with other customers. Was it just a drunken brawl or did someone get on KC's nerves and he went ballistic? Celebs chilling out should freeze their temper to avoid reaching boiling point 'cause all eyes are on them.'

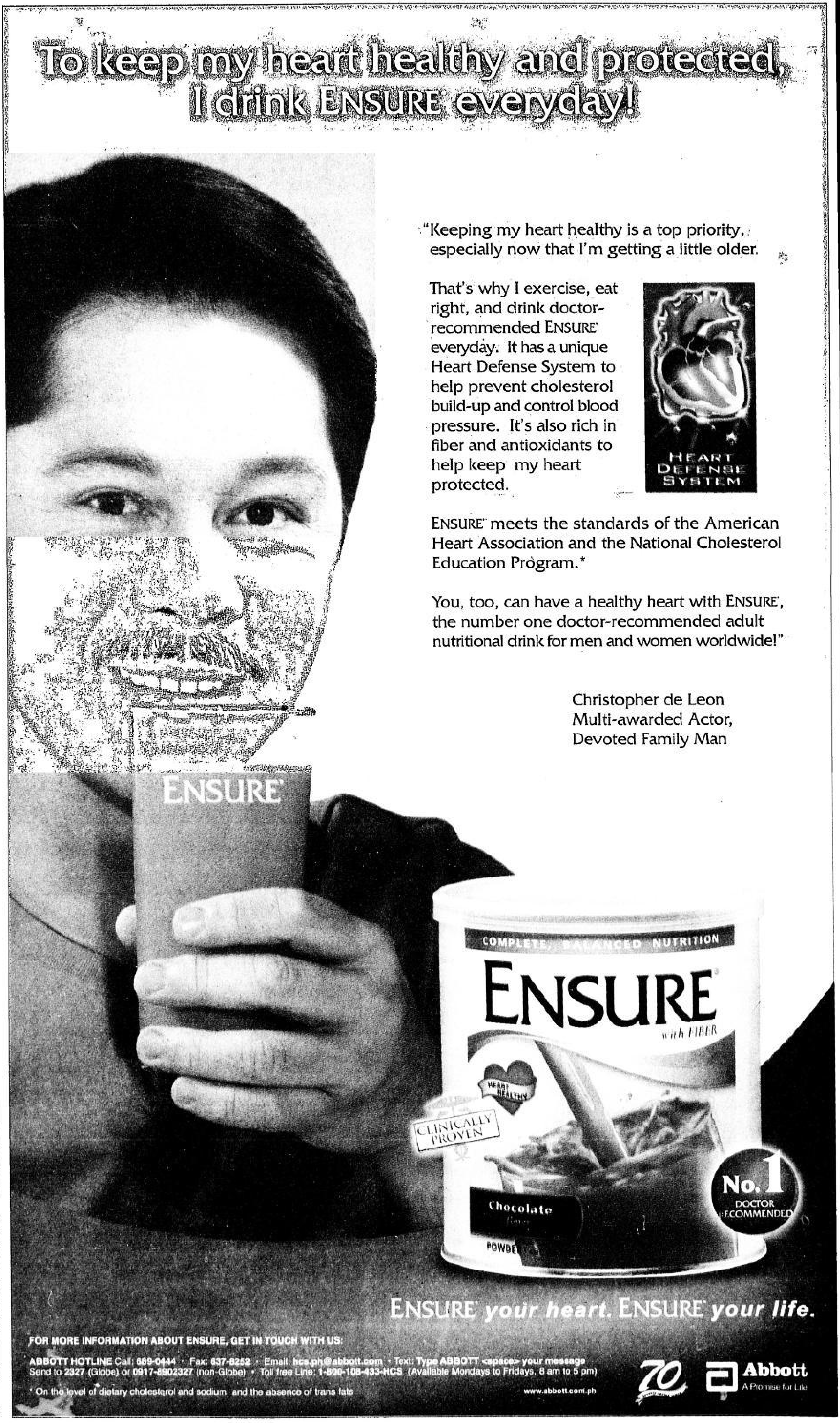
Rocky marriage

Many viewers noticed that **Kris Aquino** and **James Yap** were not all that sweet during her birthday celebration on "The Buzz." Kris even choked on tears as she thanked her son, Josh, for standing by her during what she described as difficult times. Could there be some truth to the loudest whisper in show biz about trouble brewing in the James and Kris marriage?

This may just be a phase they're going through, more so because Kris is preggy. Infanticipation brings a lot of inexplicable irritants. If the path is rocky just now, I'm sure Kris and James can use

BONG/ G2

LATEST BUZZ. Trouble in the Kris Aquino-James Yap marriage? ROGER MARGALLO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3rd UST Students' Choice Awards for TV set Feb. 20

THE THIRD USTv STUDENTS' CHOICE Awards—for artistic excellence and Christian values in television programming, given by the University of Santo Tomas—will be handed out on Feb. 20, 7 p.m. in colorful ceremonies at the Medicine Auditorium, UST campus, Espana, Manila.

Organized by the Office of Secretary-General, together with student groups of the Pontifical University, the awards are drawn from the choices of the 33,000-strong UST student body. A student-dominated board of judges led by media experts confirms the choices.

UST Secretary-General Fr. Isidro Abano opens the ceremonies with a special message. The awards will be handed out by Fr. Ernesto Arceo, O.P., the new rector magnificus.

Broadcast personality Ali Sotto will receive the Speculum Veritatis Award for "mirroring in her life and professional practice the Thomasian virtue of truth in charity."

The penultimate Television Station of the Year award has been recast as the "Most Youth-Responsible Television Station."

The nominees

News Program: "24 Oras" (GMA-7), "Bandila" and "TV Patrol World" (ABS-CBN). **Documentary:** "Imbestigador" (GMA), "The Correspondents" and "XXX" (ABS-CBN). **Public Affairs:** "Debate with Mare at Pare" (GMA-7), "Dong Puno Live" (ABS-CBN), "Y-Speak" (Studio 23).

News and Public Affairs Host: Mike Enriquez and Arnold Clavio (GMA-7), Korina Sanchez (ABS-CBN). **Magazine Program:** "Homeboy" and "Balitang K" (ABS-CBN), "F" (Studio 23). **Educational Program:** "Art Angel" (GMA-7), "Art Jam" (ABS-CBN), "Sineskuwela" (Studio 23/Knowledge Channel).

Catholic Program: "Family Rosary Crusade" (ABC-5), "Noel" (QTV-11), "El Shaddai" (IBC-13). **Situational Comedy:** "Bahay Mo Ba 'To?" and "Daddy Di Do Du" (GMA-7), "OK Fine, Ito ang Gusto N'yo" (ABS-CBN).

Variety Show: "Eat Bulaga!" (GMA-7), "ASAP" and "Wowowee" (ABS-CBN).

Music Video: "Someday" (Nina, EMI Records), "Doo Bi Doo" (Kamikaze, Universal Records), "Bitiw" (Spongecola, Universal). **Foreign Soap Opera:** "A Wonderful Life" and "Jewel in the Palace" (GMA-7), "It Started with a Kiss" (ABS-CBN).

Reality Program: "Philippine Idol" (ABC-5), "Pinoy Dream Academy" (ABS-CBN). **Animated Program:** "Doraemon" and "Ghostfighter" (GMA-7), "Naruto" (ABS-CBN).

Drama Anthology: "Magpakailanman" (GMA-7), "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" (ABS-CBN). **Drama Mini-Series:** "Bakekang" (GMA-7), "Bituing Walang Ningning" and "Maging Sino Ka Man" (ABS-CBN). **Actress in a Mini-Series:** Angel Locsin, "Majika" (GMA-7), Anne Curtis and Bea Alonzo, "Maging Sino Ka Man" (ABS-CBN). **Actor in a Mini-Series:** Dennis Trillo, "Majika" (GMA-7), John Lloyd Cruz and Sam Milby, "Maging Sino Ka Man" (ABS-CBN). **Most Youth-Responsible TV Station:** GMA, ABS-CBN, Studio 23.

(Call Prof. Giovanna Fontan... Public and Alumni Affairs, 731-35... or 406-1611 loc. 8315.)

Bong Revilla . . .

From page G1

those rocks, so to speak, to build a stronger foundation instead of throwing those stones at each other.

Many Valentine babies like Kris are known to endure the unendurable for love.

Solar shows

It was such a delight to be a guest on Jullie Yap Daza's TV special last Sunday. It's just the first of many interesting TV shows that Solar Entertainment has lined up on RPN 9. They are gearing up for a grand launch soon. It's a welcome alternative to the never-ending battle between the Kapamilya and Kapuso networks. Shine on, Solar!

Chinese new year

Mandarin Oriental, Manila stages its trademark Chinese New Year festivities tomorrow, starting 11 p.m. on the dawning of the Year of the Yin Fire Pig. The auspicious merrymaking activities, which offer revelers a chance to win a Hong Kong holiday for two with accommodations at The Excelsior, are designed to augur good fortune and bring good chi as spearheaded by Hong Kong-based geomancer **Joseph Chau**. Call 7508888 ext. 2633/2422 for reservations.

Kung Hei Fat OINK!!

High-tech deal

Mojo Pacific Media (MPM) and ABC 5 join forces to produce revolutionary TV game and reality shows, provide Interactive TV (ITV) services, Internet-enabled services and other value-added services. MPM is a joint venture of Pinoy-owned Pacific Technomedia and US-based Mojo Mediaworks, which has projects with Fox Network, ESPN and **Randy Jackson** Productions ("American Idol"), among others. They are launching Slingo, an interactive trivia game show, in March.

New bands

The Drizzle band has brought the diversities and artistic aspirations from its native Cagayan de Oro in its debut album "Love Without Logic" (Galaxy Records). The album includes "Ikaw Lang," "Silly Games" and "Foolish Love." Catch the band in SM Bacoor (today).

Email wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

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MUSIC & LYRICS 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50
THE PROMISE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
THE FOUNTAIN 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
APOCALYPTO 3:50 / 9:35
THE HOLIDAY 1:00 / 6:45
THE MESSENGERS 1:00 / 5:20 / 9:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2:55 / 7:15
Platinum Cinema: MUSIC & LYRICS 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
Alimall 5
THE PROMISE 12:10 R4, 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
GHOST RIDER 12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
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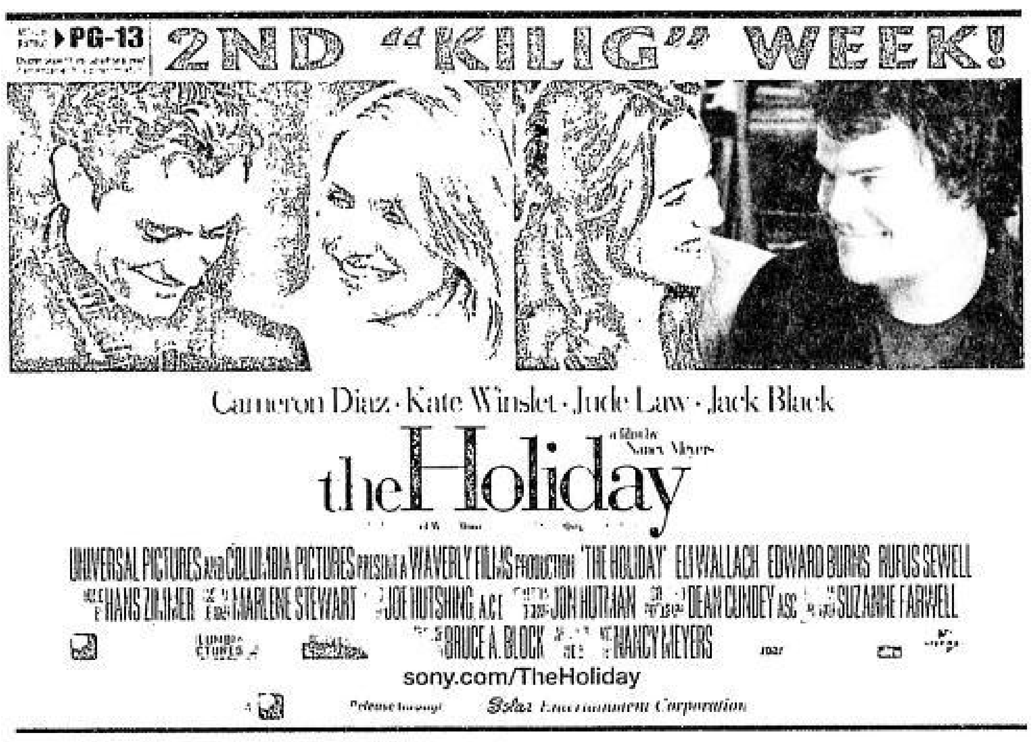

PG-13
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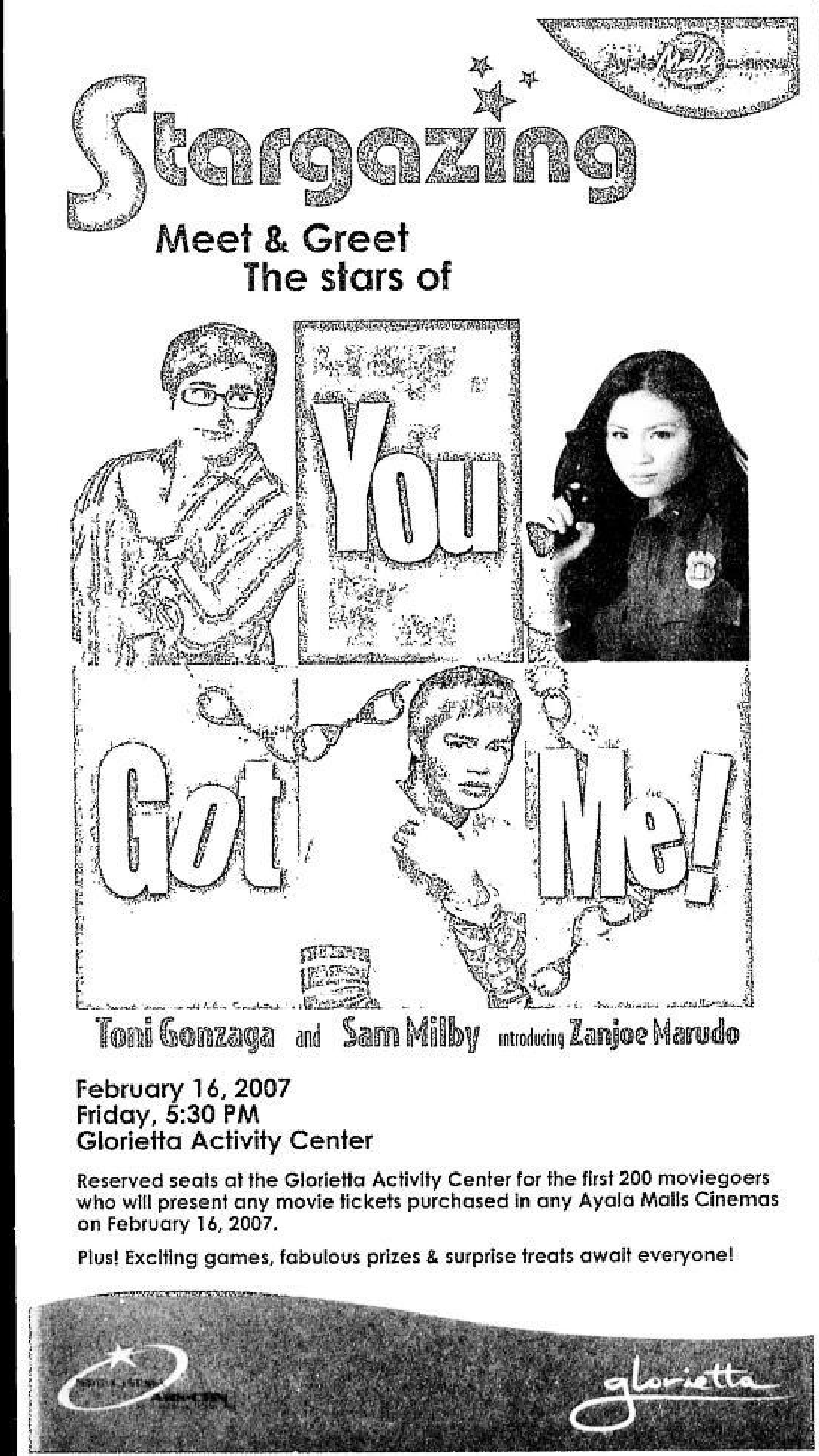

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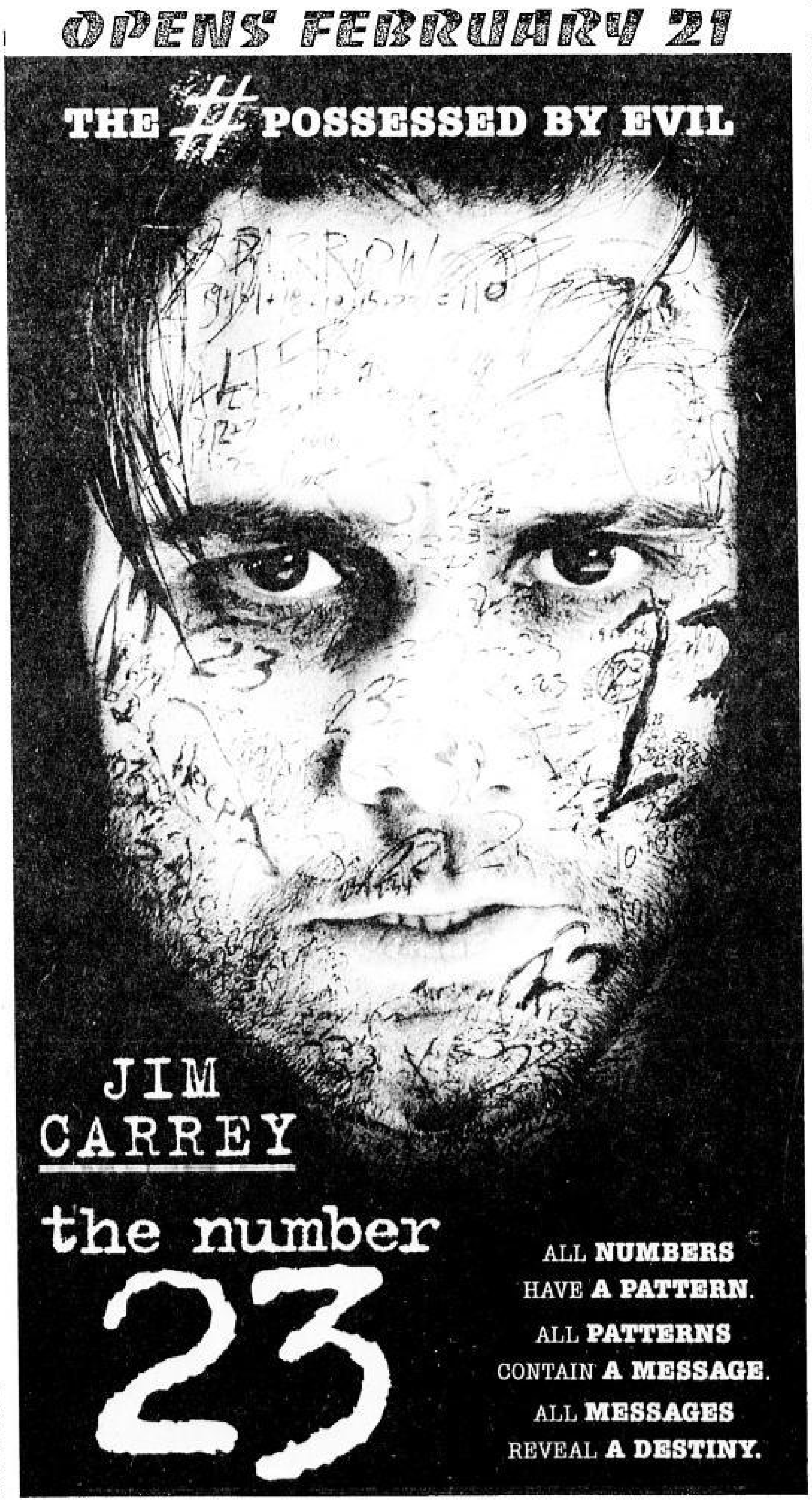

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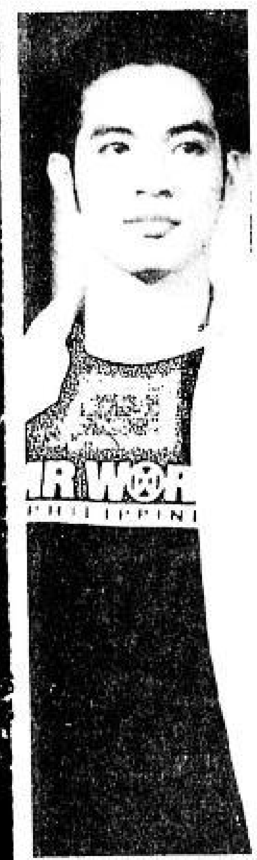
JIM CARREY
the number 23
ALL NUMBERS HAVE A PATTERN.
ALL PATTERNS CONTAIN A MESSAGE.
ALL MESSAGES REVEAL A DESTINY.

RP hopes to end unlucky streak in Mr. World pageant

PEIMAN BORJA GOMARI RODEL ROTONI



AIMAN MANUEL PEREA RODEL ROTONI

By Armin Adina

IT'S THE MEN'S TURN.

Amid all the fanfare surrounding the forthcoming Binibining Pilipinas pageant, Mister World-Philippines 2007 quietly unfolded, to select the country's representative to the Mister World competition in Sanya, China this March.

The international contest was last held in 2003 when Brazil's Gustavo Gianetti bagged the title.

The country has not been as fortunate in Mister World as it has been in the Miss World pageant. In the last five years, the Philippines landed in the semifinals or finals of the women's competition four times.

The 18 local candidates hope to end the Philippines' unlucky streak in the Mister World pageant. Miss World finalist Mafae Yunon, who attended the press presentation last week at the Manila Pavillion hotel in Manila, said she had "high hopes for this year's batch of contestants."

Crowd favorite Peiman Gomari declared, "We're all serious about this." He added the contestants are undergoing rigorous training for the local tilt, set Feb. 17 on GMA 7's "Walang Tulugan with the Master Showman."

Another well-applauded candidate, Iago Raterta, is a veteran model and semifinalist in the Manhunt International contest last year.

Deone Dasallas, a Biology (Master's degree) student at the University of the Philippines, said he hoped to dispel the belief that all Filipinos are dog eaters. Given the chance to represent the country, he said, "I will talk about the Philippine law that criminalizes the killing of dogs for food."

John Carlo Cruz of Quezon City dismissed observations that male pageants are merely a showcase of airheads. "That's unwarranted stereotyping," he said.

Aiman Perea insisted he found nothing wrong with male contests being patterned after women's pageants. The self-confessed fashion aficionado also said wearing beautiful clothes was his way of expressing himself.

The 2007 Mister World-Philippines is presented by the Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc.

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GHOST RIDER PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER R13 12:40,3:05,5:30, 7:55,10:20	GHOST RIDER PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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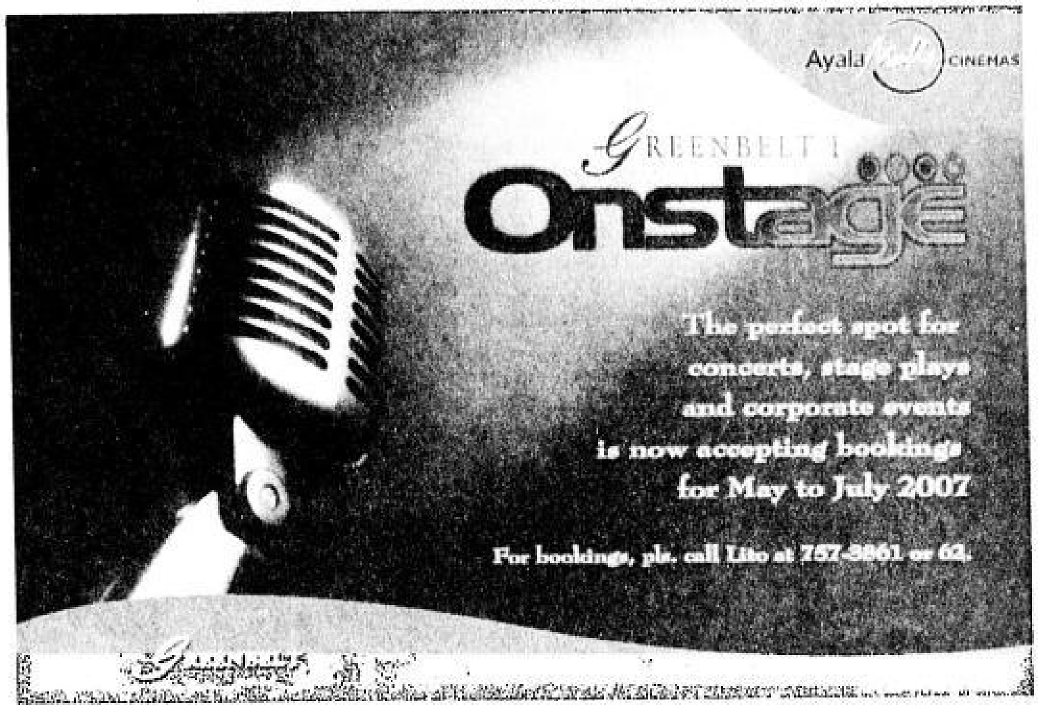

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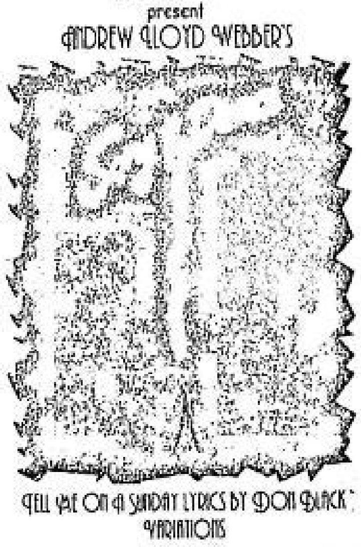

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G4	1 THE FOUNTAIN	2 GHOST RIDER	3 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE HISTORY BOYS	5 THE MESSENGERS	6 MUSIC & LYRICS	7 THE PROMISE
GB1	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS		
GB3	1 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE HISTORY BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE FOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 MUSIC & LYRICS		
	3 THE FOUNTAIN	4 THE HOLIDAY	5 THE PROMISE	
ACC	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 THE PROMISE	4 THE MESSENGERS
M2	1 THE PROMISE	2 THE FOUNTAIN		
	3 THE MESSENGERS	4 GHOST RIDER	5 MUSIC & LYRICS	

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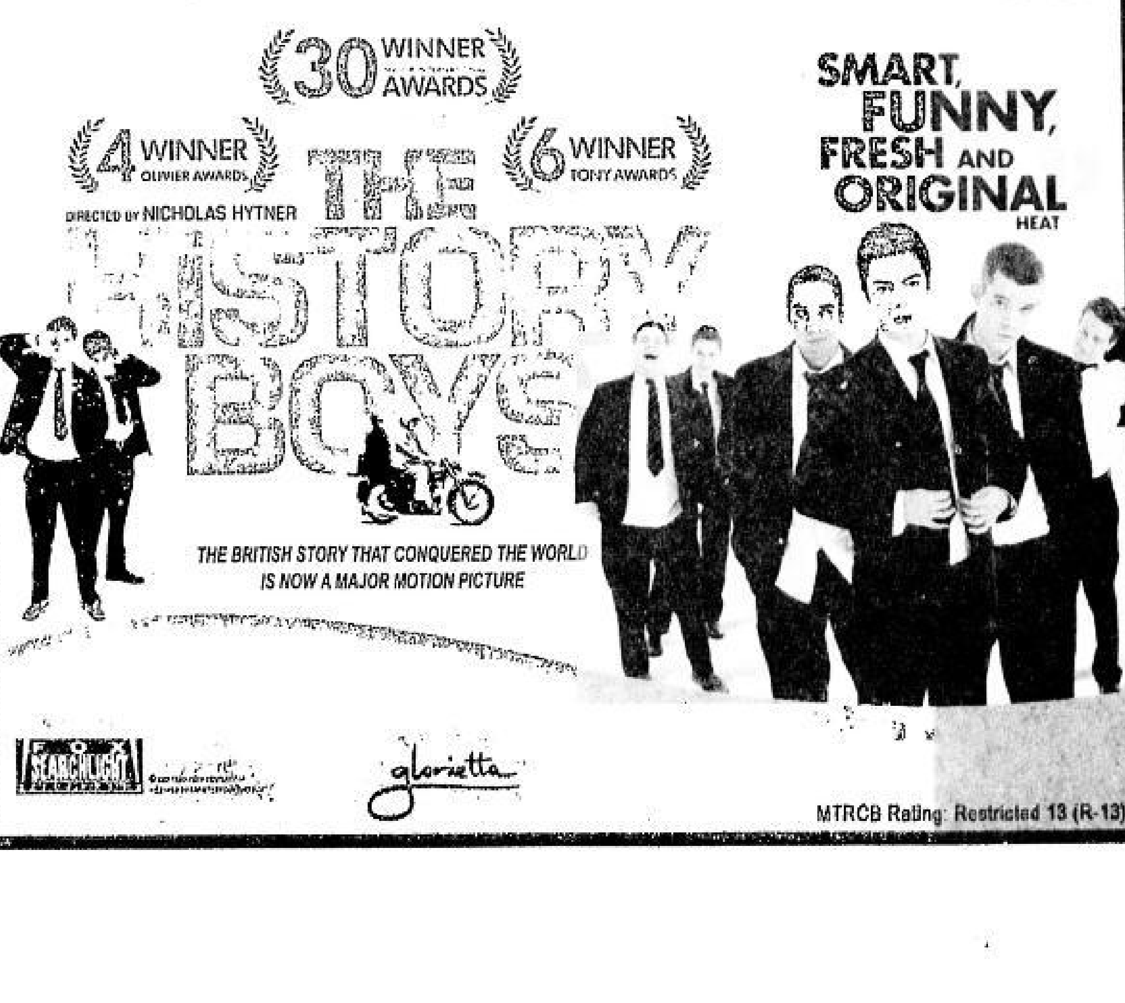

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Justin Timberlake can quit his day job if he wants to

… and Monique Lhuillier hits fashion high notes at Grammys

LEANN RIMES

SCARLETT JOHANSSON

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—CEBU-BORN **Monique Lhuillier** hit fashion high notes at the recent Grammy Awards when several presenters and awardees, including **Scarlett Johansson** (who looked hotter than usual), wore the designer's dresses.

Here's a description of Monique's clothes, by her publicist: "Presenter Scarlett Johansson in a navy and black jersey cocktail dress with cutout detail and fitted corset hot off the runway from Monique's Fall 2007 collection. **LeAnn Rimes**, nominated for Best Female Country Vocal Performance, in an aubergine matte jersey plunging deep V-neck gown embellished with a turquoise and gold beaded waist from Monique's Spring 2007 collection. Grammy winner Carrie Underwood in a black and white hand-painted organza strapless cocktail dress with hand tufted skirt and black taffeta sash at the after parties."

We heard that Fil-Am **Vanessa Minnillo**, "Entertainment Tonight's" correspondent, wore a dress by Kevan Hall. However, Vanessa donned Monique's creation when she attended her Fall 2007 Runway Show.

Monique's publicist also announced that the LA-based designer dressed "Sopranos" star **Jamie-Lynn Sigler** at the 59th Annual Writers Guild of America Awards in New York.

Full-time actor

From what we've seen in "Black Snake Moan" and "Alpha Dog," **Justin Timberlake** can quit his day job if he wants to and become a full-time actor.

The pop music superstar is no mere ornament in "Black Snake…" where he played a boyfriend with anxiety disorder to **Christina Ricci**'s nymphomaniac (we'll tell you more about the actress tackling her best role soon) or in "Alpha…," where he portrayed a suburban gangster. Critics praised his performance in both movies. He has a bigger role in the latter film, which was inspired by a true story involving a young Southern California drug lord and his gang of friends from affluent neighborhoods.

"Alpha," helmed by **Nick Cassavetes**, is a world apart in tone and subject matter from his memorable weepie, "The Notebook." Justin essays one of the pals of a character based on Jesse James Hollywood, who at 20 was one of the youngest to make it to the FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives list. Captured in Brazil two years ago, **Jesse James** is awaiting trial on charges that he allegedly masterminded the kidnapping and murder of a 15-year-old boy.

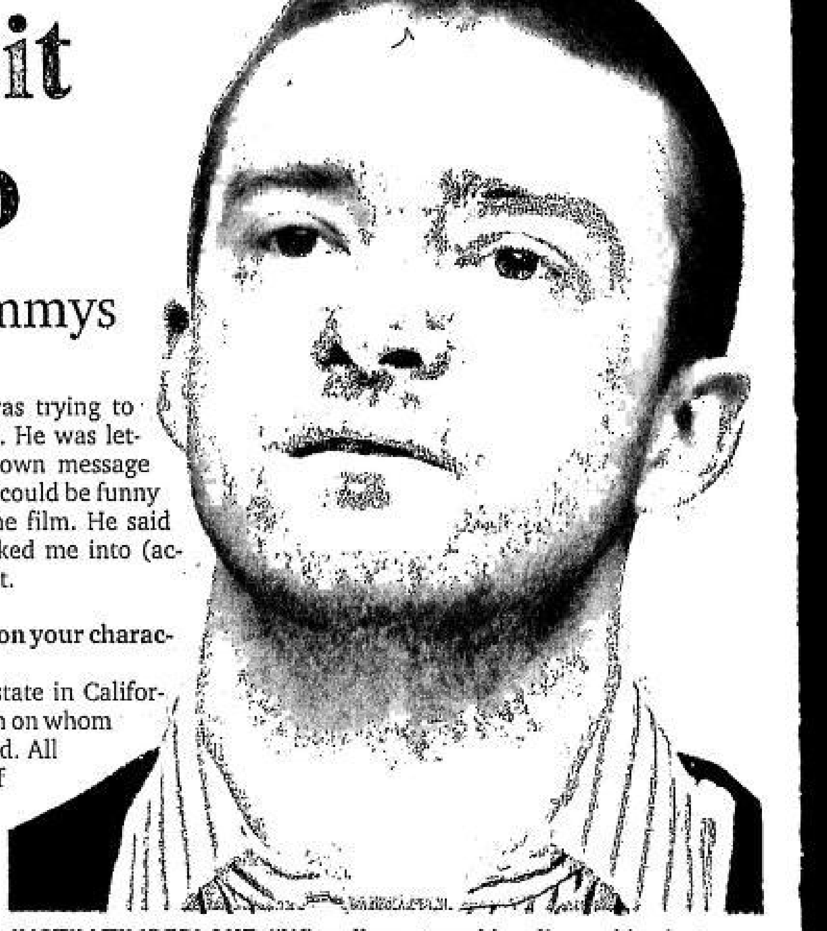
Alternately shy and poised, Justin answered the reporters' questions while his mom, **Lynn Harless**, sat in the back. Lynn is divorced from Justin's dad, **Randall Timberlake**, and is married to **Paul Harless**, whom the former *NYSYNC member describes as "probably the greatest man I've ever known."

Recently separated from actress **Cameron Diaz**, Justin was rumored to be dating Scarlett Johansson who shot down the talks on the Grammy red carpet. Justin also made news last December when he and **Andy Samberg** performed the satirical song, "Dick in a Box," with gift boxes attached to their crotches, in an episode of "Saturday Night Live." A video of that song kit established a record on "YouTube"—it has been viewed over 13 million times. Still enjoying a hot musical career, Justin considers acting as a "hobby."

For those keeping close watch on Justin's fashion taste, he layered Yves Saint Laurent and Vans shirts, a J. Lindberg sweater and William Rast jeans at the press con.

How did you get involved in this movie?

Nick and I spoke about "The Notebook" a long time ago. I said to him that I didn't feel that I could (do that movie). After meeting Nick again, about this film, I thought the movie spoke volumes. The script had a great message to get across. But Nick was not approaching it like he was trying to teach anyone anything. He was letting everyone get his own message from it. I asked Nick if I could be funny a couple of times in the film. He said yes. So that's what talked me into (accepting) the film project.



JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE: "When I'm not working, I'm seeking just complete silence."

Did you meet the person your character was based on?

Nick and I went upstate in California and I met the person on whom my character was based. All the actors did a lot of research. There were so many court files and press clippings about what actually happened. Nick said that he knew a lot about the story. I know that even his children had some sort of affiliation with these people. So we all trusted Nick.

This project began in 2004. It is now 2007. Is it still the type of movie you are looking for?

Absolutely. Because I have my day job, you know what I mean? To me, this is actually a hobby. If I'm spending time doing something that I'm not really inspired to do, then why am I doing it? I've been lucky enough to have a musical career that has gone pretty good. I've been offered a lot of things that I turned down without even thinking twice about it. But to me, this movie felt like an opportunity to really sink my teeth into something.

Your last "Saturday Night Live" guest performance was probably among the funniest ones in years. There seems to be nothing you can't do.

I can't dunk a basketball.

Who was your idol when you were growing up?

Michael Jordan. It (a career in basketball—he loves the sport) just didn't work out. The reason I idolized Michael Jordan was because of the things he went through to be as good as he was.

How was it for you, growing up with divorced parents?

My parents were always very good. My parents divorced when I was very young. I was three. I don't remember a lot of it. But I do remember both of them constantly telling me that this (divorce) was not about me. That it was something between mom and dad. They were both very supportive of me. It was pretty painless for me.

The "Dick in a Box" video is such a huge thing on "YouTube."

Now here's something I wanted to get down to.

One of the new versions of the video used images of Britney Spears. Have you seen that one?

I had nothing to do with that. I heard this morning that there was a female who did her own version of the video that was called, "My Box in a Box." I'm not exactly sure how I feel about that. I think it has gone a little too far.

Which movie made you want to become an actor?

"Ferris Bueuller's Day Off." I was obviously still in school at the time I saw the movie. I was like, I wonder if I could pull that off? There were a couple of instances in school where I actually tried to pull it off.

Were you already an entertainer when you were a kid?

I was a little shy then. Funny enough that when I found that I could perform and get people's attention, everything changed for me. But before that, until I was about eight or nine, my mom liked to joke that I only knew what my sneakers looked like because I constantly walked around with my head down. I was kind of a shy kid. But all of a sudden, the stage made sense for me. That's what brought me out of my shell. A monster was created. It was fun. I would find the one person whose attention I didn't have. I would zoom in on that person. It became about challenges. I find that in my twenties, I've had an interesting time so far.

I've got to do so many things at such a young age. I find that when I'm not working, I'm seeking just complete silence and time to be alone. I think that also has to do with the schedule and how much I work. You have to offset all of that activity with nothing. Or something that's fun and relaxing.

You said you have a good mom which is good to hear…

She's right over there. She's the woman who looks like my sister.

Your teenage idol years didn't register with you?

It registered but my parents instilled in me to always be humble. So I'd like to believe that it went in one ear and out on the other for the most part.

How did you deal with all the attention?

It messed with my mind a little bit when I was a teenager. I was not equipped to deal with all of the attention. But I learned very quickly that I shouldn't pay attention to it. Then I realized that my own experiences had nothing to do with what was written about. You start to realize how much of it is soap opera created just to sell magazines. You have to remove yourself from it. Or it will drive you completely insane.

And how do you deal with all the money?

My stepdad, who is probably the greatest man I've ever known, bought me stocks in Wal-Mart when I was 10. I had no idea what was happening but it was like my first lesson in money. I would come downstairs and my dad would have the sports page. I would have the business or stocks section. Then we would switch. I'm eating Cap'n Crunch and he's drinking coffee. That was how our mornings went for a couple of years. My stepdad's a banker so I learned right away to save. I like nice things but I'm also the kind of person who will talk himself out of buying anything if I am at a store.

What do you value most these days?

I would say my family. Peace of mind is a huge value for me, especially at this point. The one thing my dad said to me that registered with me for the last three years is, enjoy your life. Because I have become a workaholic. He said that one day, you're not going to be as agile as you are right now so have fun. Enjoy your life. And that has been a huge part of my last two or three years. It's probably the best advice I've gotten so far.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
NO. 1 IN THE U.S.
NO. 1 IN THE PHILIPPINES!
They say children see what adults do not.
But no one listens. No one believes.
Now, no one will live.
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& PRODUCER OF THE GRUDGE SERIES
presents
THE MESSENGERS
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hugh grant drew barrymore
music and lyrics

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MTRCB PG-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
② GHOST RIDER
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
③ MUSIC AND LYRICS
MTRCB PG-13
2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
④ THE HOLIDAY
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE
THE FOUNTAIN
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12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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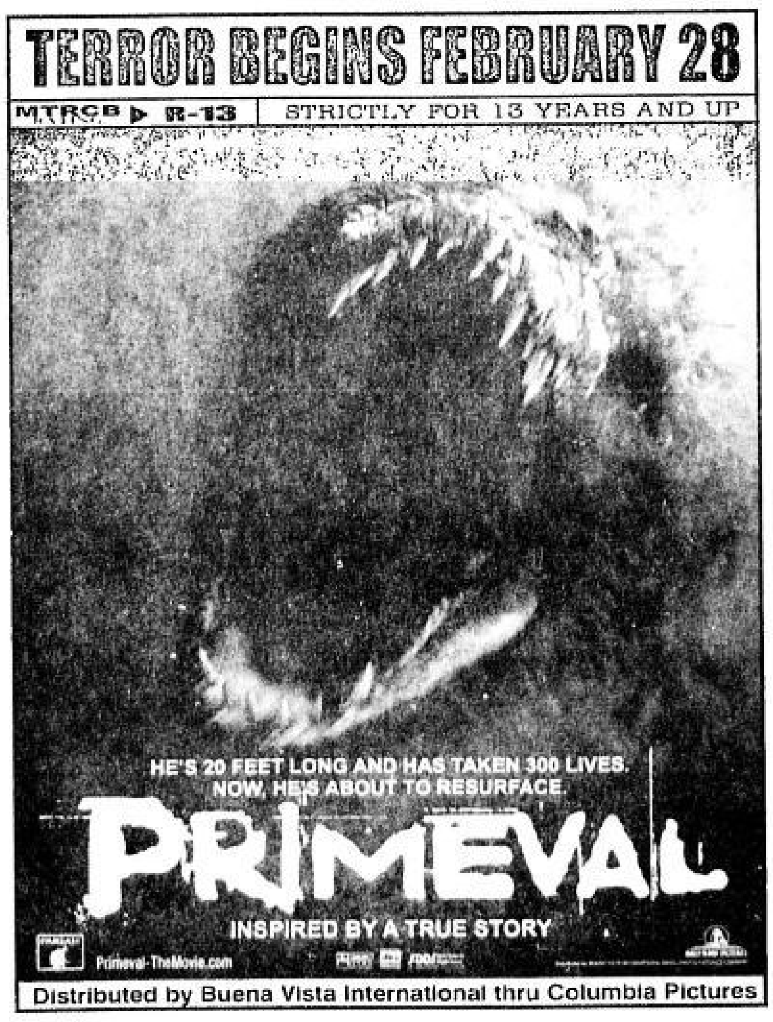

TERROR BEGINS FEBRUARY 28
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
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Primeval-TheMovie.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Playing for Tibet

US ACTOR RICHARD Gere plays piano at the "Cinema for Peace" charity gala in Berlin early this week.

The gala, which will benefit children in Dafur and Tibetian refugees, was held during the annual Berlinale film festival, which ends on Sunday.

Below left, Irish musician Bob Geldof applauds as Sharon Stone busses Gere after his performance. *AP*

NATHAN LOPEZ

SUGAR IS HALF-Japanese Spitz and half-native. She's two years old and still a virgin. I shower her with hugs and kisses every hour. We give her a weekly bath and she eats with us. We also buy clothes for her, but she takes them off. She's fun and super sweet. We suspect she's human.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

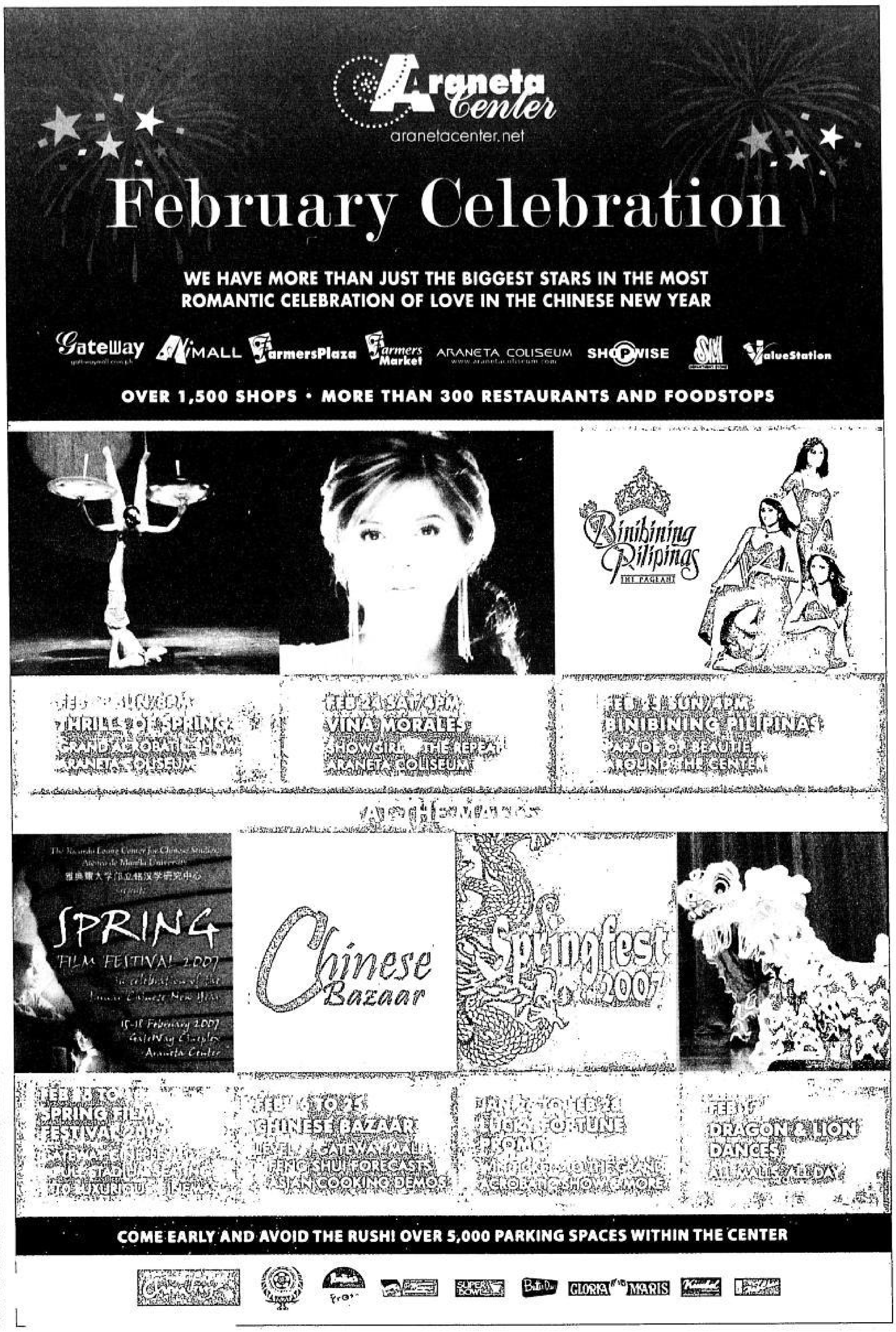
JADA Pinkett Smith

JOY BRYANT

Bling!

JADA PINKETT Smith, and Joy Bryant wore Bvlgari to the Screen Actors Guild Awards in LA.

Smith donned pieces from the Astrale Concentrica Colore Collection, including a large 18-karat yellow gold pendant with sapphires and diamonds. Bryant wore ruby and yellow sapphire drop earrings. and an armful of bracelets.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Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza Farmers Market ARANETA COLISEUM SHOPWISE SM ValueStation

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FEB 24 SAT/7PM VINA MORALES SHOWGIRL [illegible] THE REPEAT ARANETA COLISEUM

FEB [illegible] SUN/4PM BINIBINING PILIPINAS PARADE OF BEAUTIES AROUND THE CENTER

SPRING FILM FESTIVAL 2007
Chinese Bazaar
Springfest 2007

FEB 14 TO 18 SPRING FILM FESTIVAL 2007 [illegible]

FEB 14 TO 25 CHINESE BAZAAR LEVEL 2 GATEWAY MALL FENG SHUI FORECASTS ASIAN COOKING DEMOS

JAN [illegible] TO FEB 24 LUCKY FORTUNE PROMO [illegible] ACROBATIC SHOW & MORE

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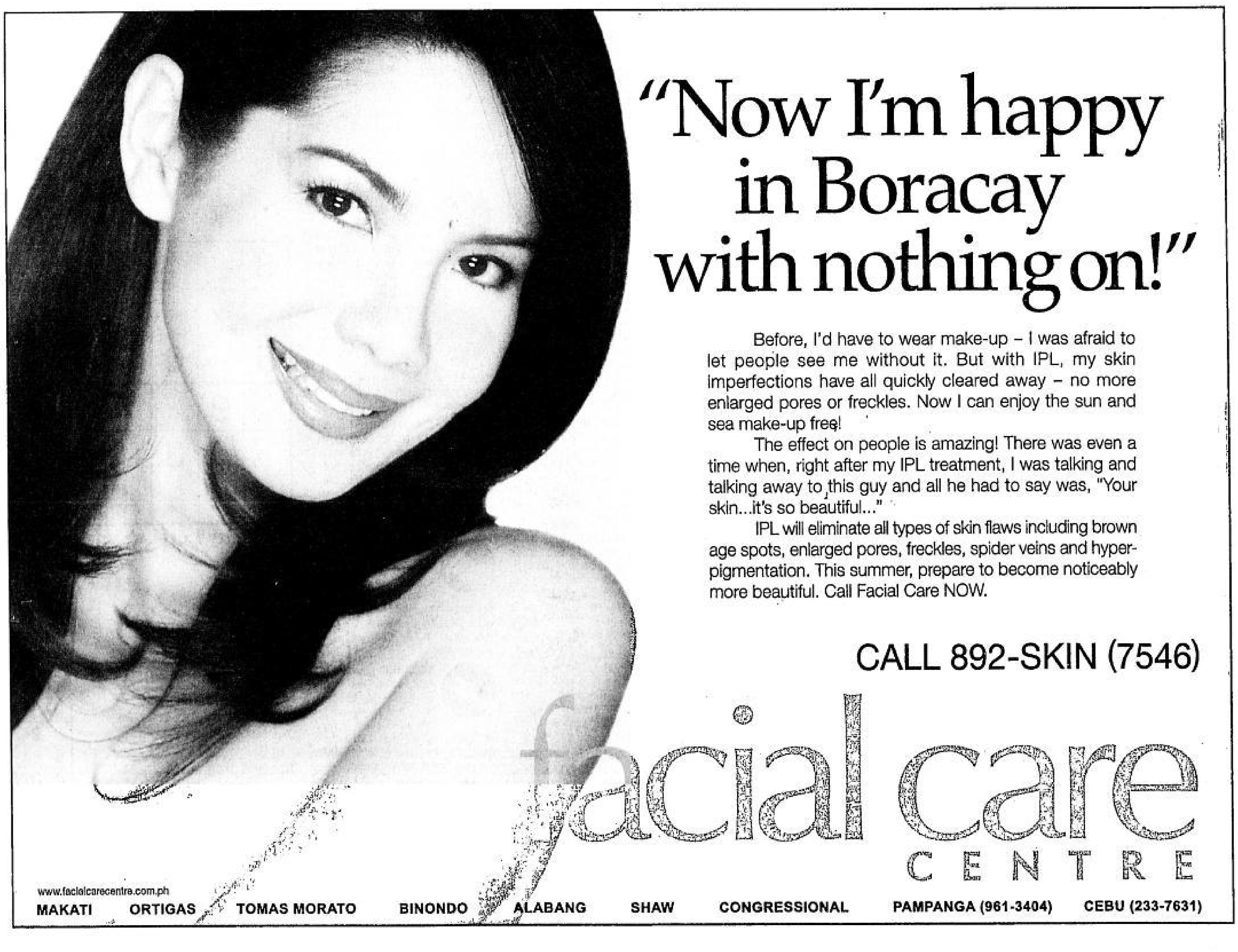
"Now I'm happy in Boracay with nothing on!"

Before, I'd have to wear make-up – I was afraid to let people see me without it. But with IPL, my skin imperfections have all quickly cleared away – no more enlarged pores or freckles. Now I can enjoy the sun and sea make-up free!

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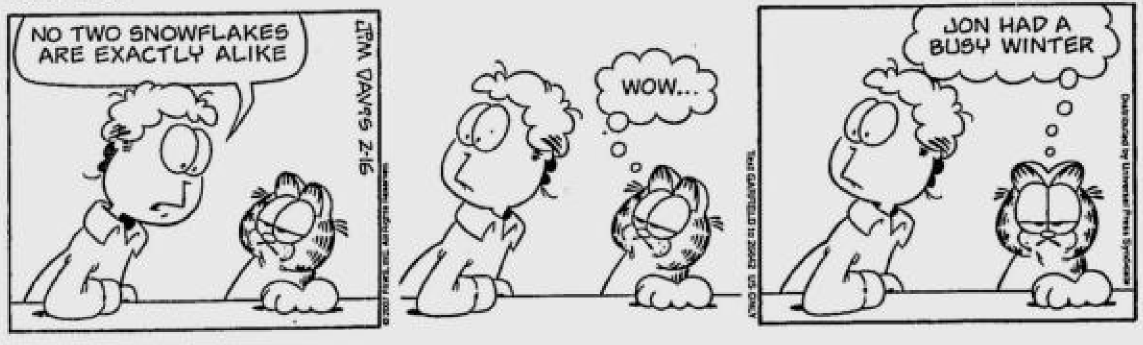
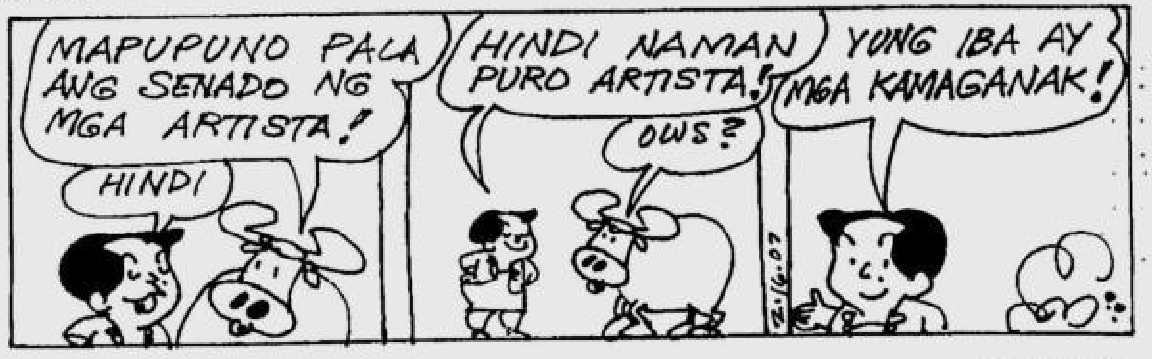
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


NO TWO SNOWFLAKES ARE EXACTLY ALIKE
JIM DAVIS 2-16
WOW...
JON HAD A BUSY WINTER

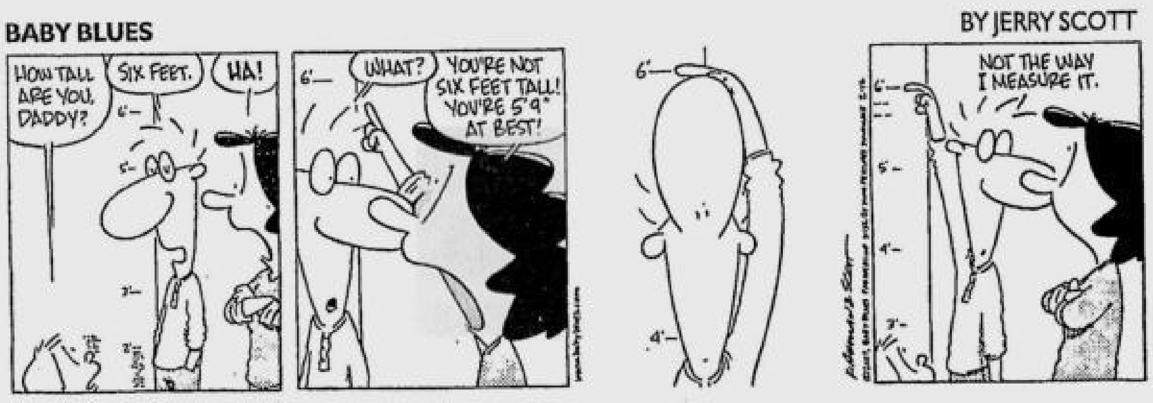
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAPUPUNO PALA ANG SENADO NG MGA ARTISTA!
HINDI
HINDI NAMAN PURO ARTISTA!
OWS?
YUNG IBA AY MGA KAMAGANAK!
2-16-07

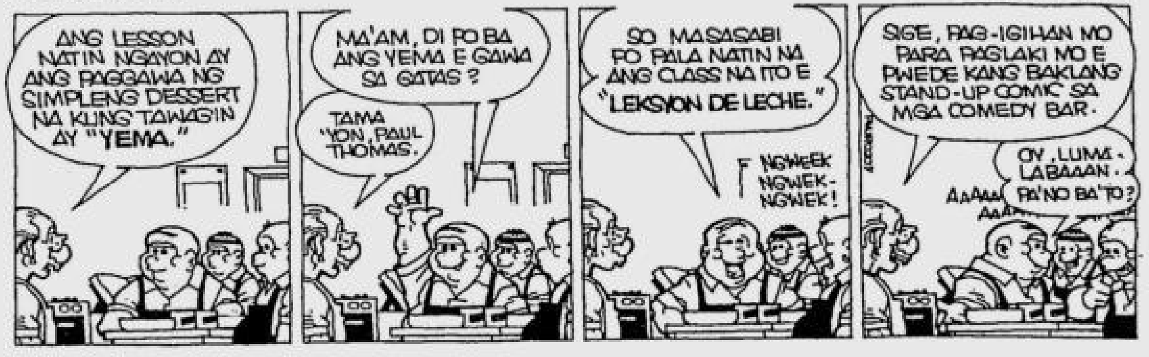
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW TALL ARE YOU, DADDY?
SIX FEET.
HA!
WHAT?
YOU'RE NOT SIX FEET TALL! YOU'RE 5'9" AT BEST!
NOT THE WAY I MEASURE IT.

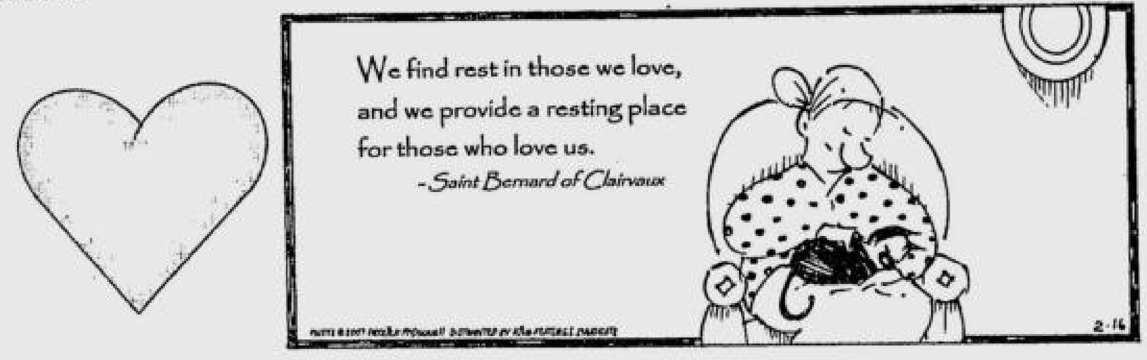
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG LESSON NATIN NGAYON AY ANG PAGGAWA NG SIMPLENG DESSERT NA KUNG TAWAGIN AY "YEMA."
MA'AM, DI PO BA ANG YEMA E GAWA SA GATAS?
TAMA 'YON, PAUL THOMAS.
SO MASASABI PO PALA NATIN NA ANG CLASS NA ITO E "LEKSYON DE LECHE."
NGWEEK NGWEK-NGWEK!
SIGE, PAG-IGIHAN MO PARA PAGLAKI MO E PWEDE KANG BAKLANG STAND-UP COMIC SA MGA COMEDY BAR.
OY, LUMA-LABAAAN. PA'NO BA'TO?
AAAAA

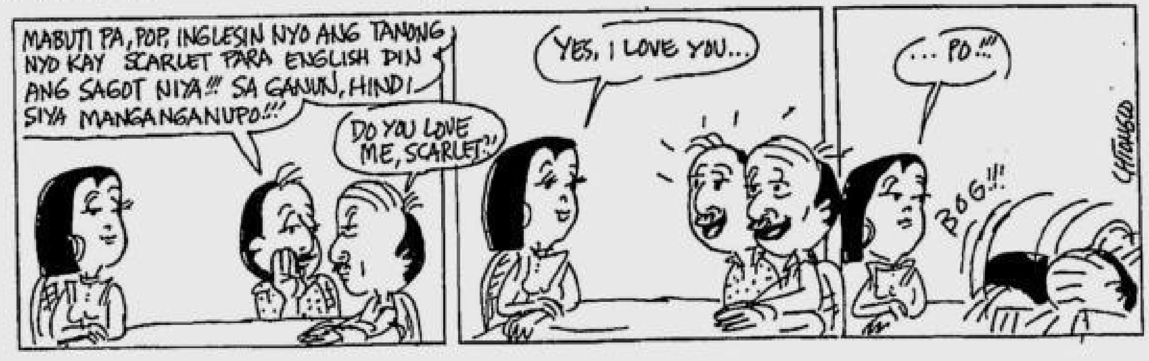
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


We find rest in those we love, and we provide a resting place for those who love us.
-Saint Bernard of Clairvaux
2-16

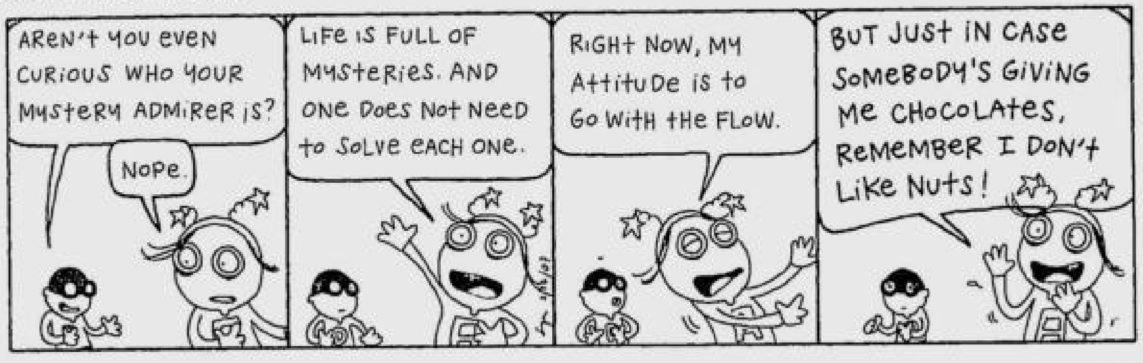
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MABUTI PA, POP, INGLESIN NYO ANG TANONG NYO KAY SCARLET PARA ENGLISH DIN ANG SAGOT NIYA!!! SA GANUN, HINDI SIYA MANGANGANUPO!!!
DO YOU LOVE ME, SCARLET?
YES, I LOVE YOU...
...PO!!!
BOG!!
CHIONGLO

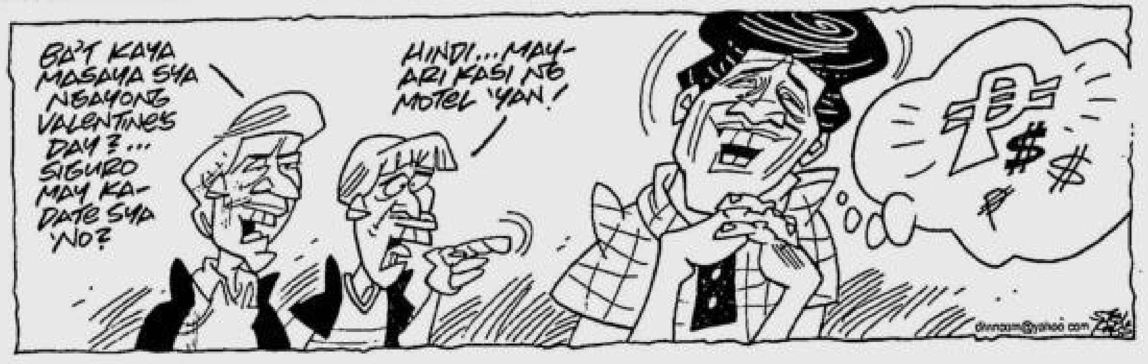
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AREN'T YOU EVEN CURIOUS WHO YOUR MYSTERY ADMIRER IS?
NOPE.
LIFE IS FULL OF MYSTERIES. AND ONE DOES NOT NEED TO SOLVE EACH ONE.
RIGHT NOW, MY ATTITUDE IS TO GO WITH THE FLOW.
BUT JUST IN CASE SOMEBODY'S GIVING ME CHOCOLATES, REMEMBER I DON'T LIKE NUTS!

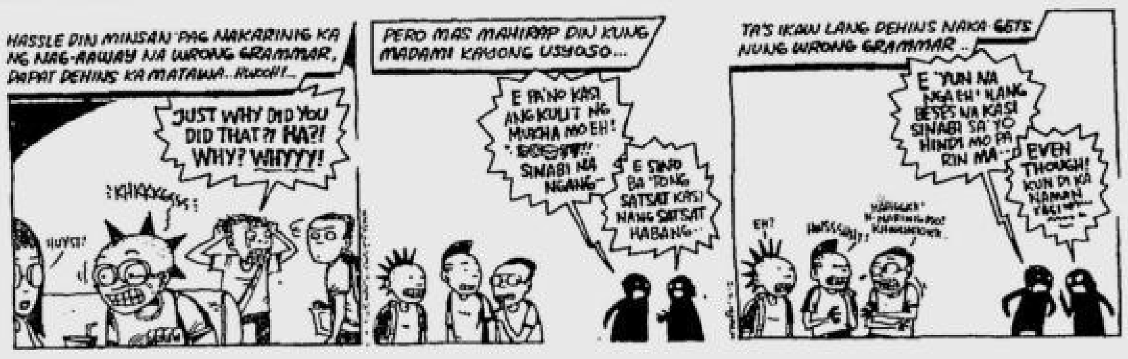
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BA'T KAYA MASAYA SYA NGAYONG VALENTINE'S DAY?... SIGURO MAY KA-DATE SYA 'NO?
HINDI... MAY-ARI KASI NG MOTEL 'YAN!
₱ $ $ ¢
divnaom@yahoo.com

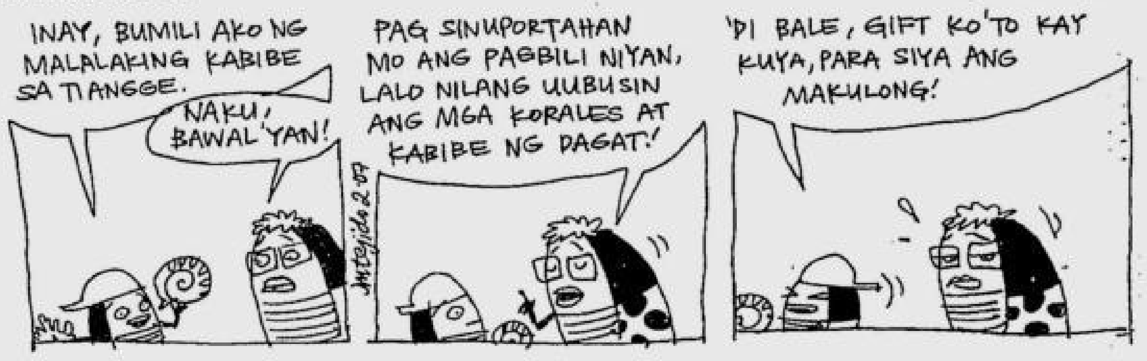
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HASSLE DIN MINSAN PAG NAKARINIG KA NG NAG-AAWAY NA WRONG GRAMMAR, DAPAT DEHINS KA MATAWA.. HUDOH!!
JUST WHY DID YOU DID THAT?! HA?! WHY? WHYYY!
KHKKKKK!
HUYST!
PERO MAS MAHIRAP DIN KUNG MADAMI KAYONG USYOSO...
E PA'NO KASI ANG KULIT NG MUKHA MO EH!
SINABI NA NGANG...
E SINO BA 'TONG SATSAT KASI NANG SATSAT HABANG...
TA'S IKAW LANG DEHINS NAKA-GETS NUNG WRONG GRAMMAR...
E 'YUN NA NGA EH! KANG BESES NA KASI SINABI SA 'YO HINDI MO PA RIN MA...
EVEN THOUGH! KUN DI KA NAMAN...
EH?
HWSSSSH!!

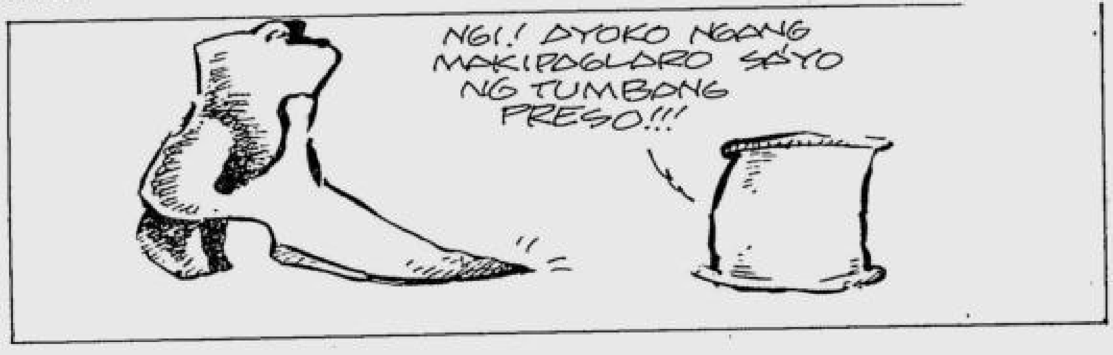
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, BUMILI AKO NG MALALAKING KABIBE SA TIANGGE.
NAKU, BAWAL 'YAN!
PAG SINUPORTAHAN MO ANG PAGBILI NIYAN, LALO NILANG UUBUSIN ANG MGA KORALES AT KABIBE NG DAGAT!
'DI BALE, GIFT KO 'TO KAY KUYA, PARA SIYA ANG MAKULONG!
Jmtejido 2.07

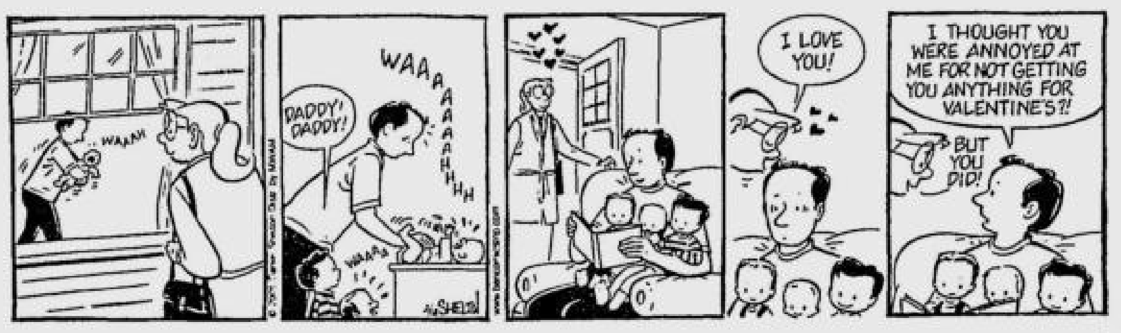
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

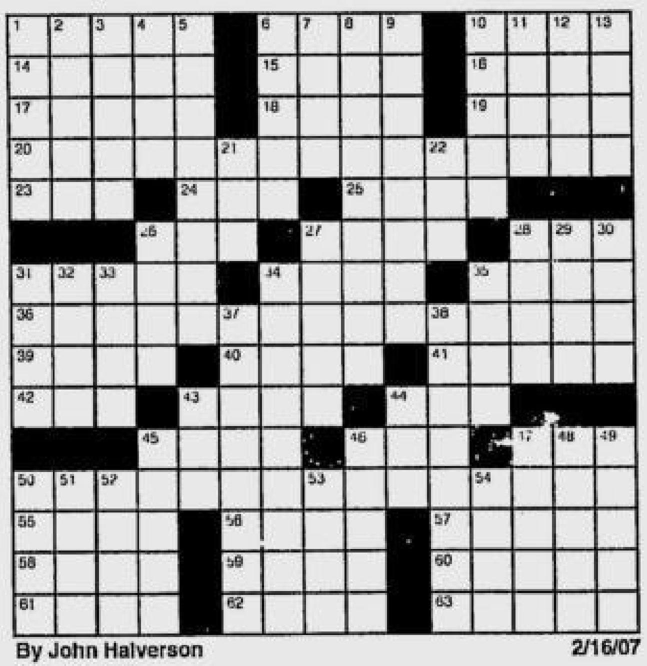

NGI! AYOKO NGANG MAKIPAGLARO SA'YO NG TUMBONG PRESO!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAH
DADDY! DADDY!
WAAAAAAAHHH
WAAAA
I LOVE YOU!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ANNOYED AT ME FOR NOT GETTING YOU ANYTHING FOR VALENTINE'S?!
BUT YOU DID!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Halverson
Viroqua, WI
2/16/07

ACROSS

1 Poison __
6 Tom Sawyer affirmative
10 Slangy denial
14 Egyptian god
15 Rounds or clips
16 Sailor's hello
17 Bizarre
18 Truth twister
19 Lasso
20 Successful prayer-line caller?
23 Actor Mineo
24 Boxing stats
25 Muscle spasms
26 Tony winner Caldwell
27 Complexion woe
28 66 or A1A, e.g.
31 Amiable satire
34 Norwegian saint
35 Drops from the sky
36 Double-checking the shingles?
39 Fuzz
40 Defunct
41 Milk dispenser?
42 Pompous fool
43 Opportune
44 Mork and ALF
45 NASA delay
46 Tango team
47 Volcanic fallout
50 Rather cite?
55 Dice toss
56 Simple to solve
57 Weak porridge
58 Qualified
59 Town near Caen
60 Playwright Edward
61 88 days on Mercury
62 One of these days
63 Chicago tower

DOWN

1 Prevents from proceeding
2 "Star Trek" role
3 Days Inn, e.g.
4 Gillette shaver
5 Mark as completed
6 Some locks
7 Arabian prince
8 Plastic money chip
9 Additional-facts button
10 Drug agts.
11 Anticipatory cry
12 Gandolfo resident
13 Observer
21 Tiller's tool
22 Hole in one
26 Faunae arrays
27 Red tide, e.g.
28 Kitchen foray
29 Pitchfork point
30 Art print, briefly
31 Pet protection grp.
32 Experts, briefly
33 Uh-oh!
34 Start of a counting rhyme
35 Old mail rtes.
37 Pardon my straying from the topic
38 Running on empty
43 Future fish
44 Ram's dam
45 Buc or Packer
46 Check for fit
47 Island west of Curacao
48 Man the helm
49 Apertures
50 Talk to God
51 Spa garment
52 Singer Fitzgerald
53 Munch Museum city
54 Agatha's contemporary

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	O	M	P	■	R	A	J	A	■	A	P	E	D
C	A	P	R	I	■	A	L	O	T	■	L	A	T	E
A	K	I	S	S	I	S	T	H	E	■	I	C	O	N
T	E	E	■	C	A	P	O	N	■	A	G	E	N	T
■	■	■	T	I	N	Y	■	O	A	T	H	S	■	■
R	E	M	A	N	S	■	S	H	O	R	T	E	S	T
A	B	A	T	E	■	B	W	A	N	A	■	T	H	Y
P	O	K	E	■	B	L	A	R	E	■	S	T	O	P
I	L	E	■	K	U	A	L	A	■	P	E	E	V	E
D	I	S	T	A	N	C	E	■	R	O	A	R	E	D
■	■	M	I	N	S	K	■	T	O	T	S	■	■	■
E	L	O	P	E	■	W	E	A	V	E	■	E	O	N
R	U	N	T	■	B	E	T	W	E	E	N	T	W	O
O	R	E	O	■	E	L	A	N	■	N	O	U	N	S
S	K	Y	E	■	A	L	L	Y	■	S	W	I	S	H

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2/16/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're clever, witty, spontaneous and entertaining. You approach life with courage. It's important to stay positive, because this is how you remain productive. You have a natural love of children and animals. You value friends from all walks of life. This year you will wrap up something you've dealt with for the past nine years. Time for something new!

Birthdate of: James Ingram, singer; Ice-T, actor/rapper; Roberta Williams, computer-game designer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Now is the time to patch up differences with others. People will see that you are sincere about wanting to improve your relations with them. (Good!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Talk to bosses, parents or authority figures in your life today. Find out if they will give you the resources you need to accomplish what you want to do.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can easily succeed at getting to the bottom of something, especially related to foreign countries, philosophical studies or dealing with people from different cultures.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Now is the time to do some serious research. You could find new solutions to old problems. You might also see a better way to divide or share something with someone.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Look for ways to improve your closest relationships and partnerships today. You simply have to respond by listening sincerely.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the perfect day to try to introduce reform or improvements where you work. Similarly, you can make improvements or headway with your own health.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your creative vibes are hot today! You have firm ideas about a lot of things. Parents might come on a bit too heavy with children—lighten up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Plumbing situations or any kind of domestic repairs will go well today. This is a good day to tackle garbage and to get rid of whatever you no longer need. Just turf it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're unusually persuasive today. Therefore, this is the day to go after anything you want. You can outtalk and outsmart anyone you meet. (Well, just about.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might see new applications for something you own. Be resourceful. You might even see new ways of using your money so that you can make improvements around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a great day to start a new health regimen, join an exercise group or something like that. Do something with the intention of improving your health and your body.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your ability to research and go after answers is very strong today. You could discover some secrets. Or you might find new solutions to old problems.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			3		9			
		4				6		
	7		1		5		3	
8		1				5		2
				2				
5		6				7		4
	9		7		2		6	
		3				1		
			4		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/16

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

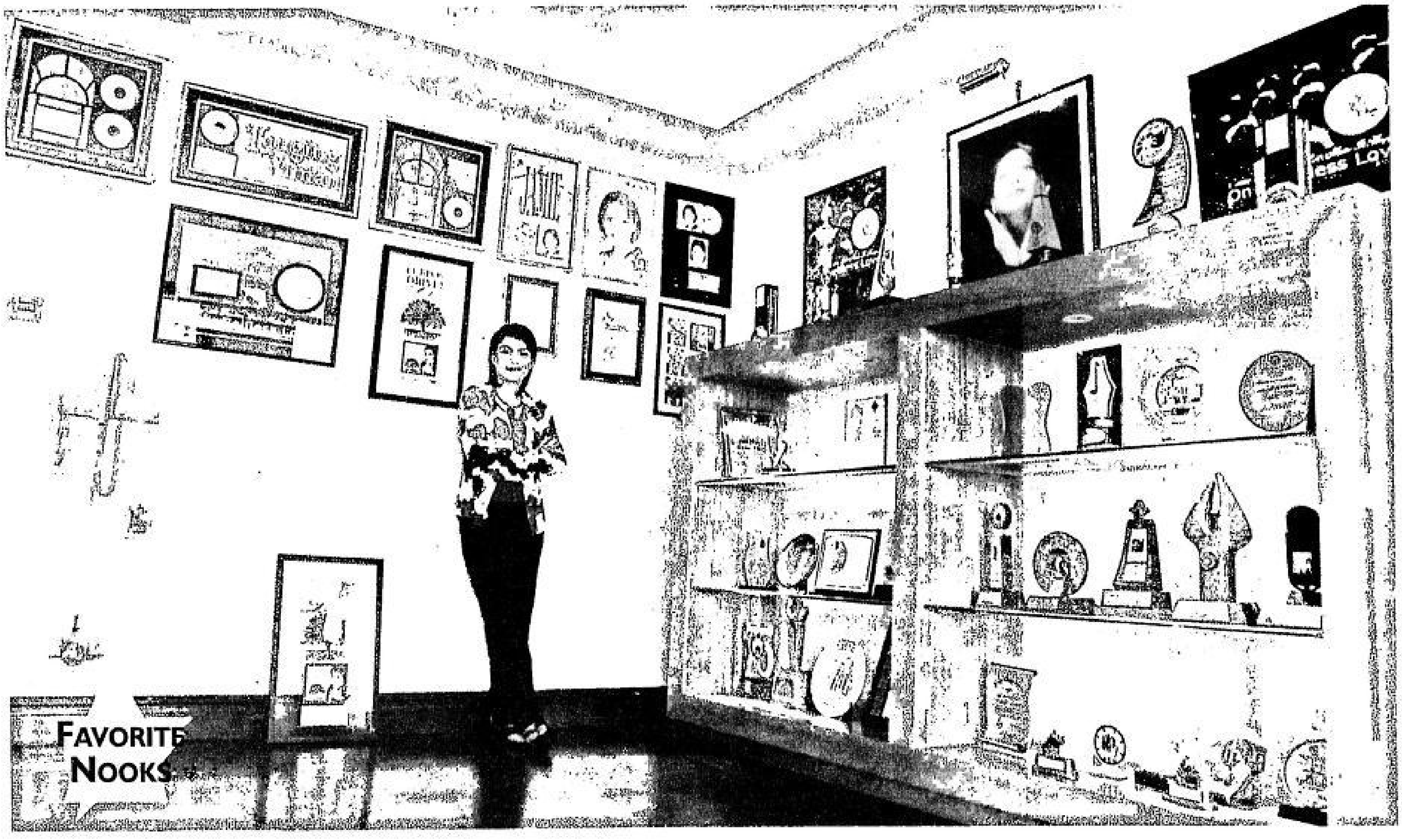
8	7	6	5	4	2	3	1	9
1	2	3	9	8	7	5	4	6
9	5	4	1	6	3	7	2	8
2	9	1	4	3	6	8	7	5
6	8	7	2	5	9	1	3	4
4	3	5	7	1	8	6	9	2
7	6	2	8	9	1	4	5	3
3	4	9	6	7	5	2	8	1
5	1	8	3	2	4	9	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

JAMIE RIVERA

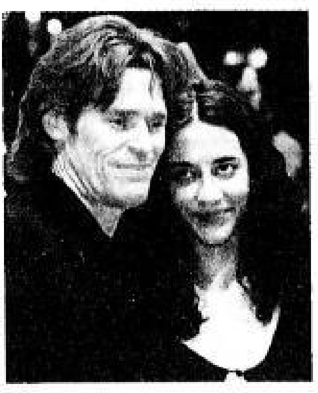
In the trophy room, I displayed my different industry awards—from the first (Music Mate) to the most memorable (Quintuple Platinum for "Jubilee"). I also hang posters of my two international musicals, "Miss Saigon" (West End) and "Bugis Street" (Singapore), there. The "Saigon" poster was even autographed by my co-workers. I'm also proud of the Young Achiever citation from my alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas. In fact, we're having our grand alumni homecoming (of batch 1983) at the Manila Hotel on Feb. 17.

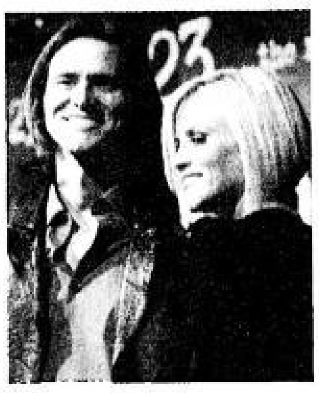
Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



Couples week

SINGER/songwriter Peter Frampton—remember him?—and wife Tina at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, Feb. 11. REUTERS


WILLEM Dafoe and wife Giada Colagrande in Berlin, Feb. 13. REUTERS

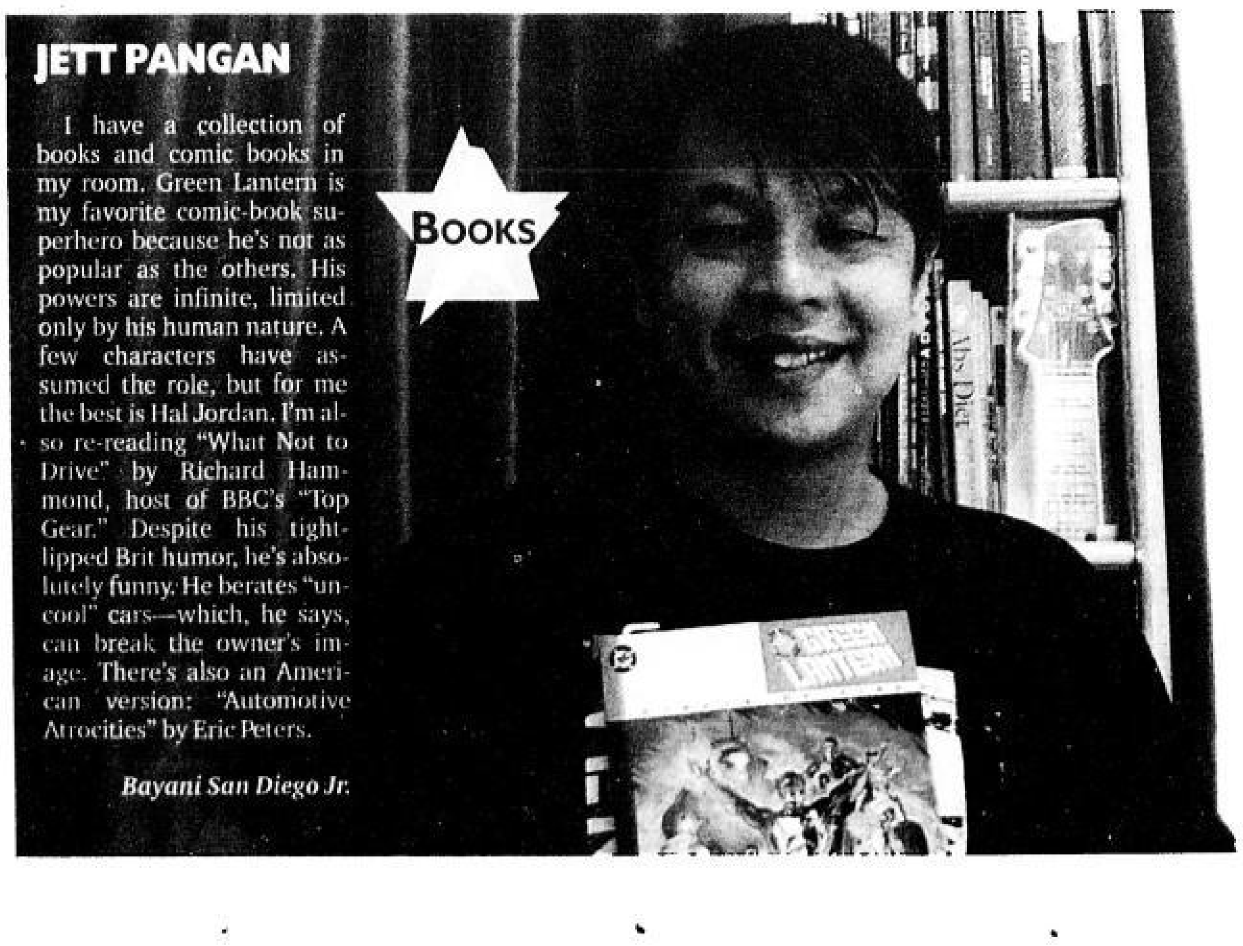

JIM Carrey and girlfriend Jenny McCarthy in LA, Feb. 13. REUTERS

PRODUCER David Puttnam and wife Patricia Jones in London, Feb. 11. REUTERS

JAMES McAvoy and wife Anne-Marie Duff in Londong, Feb. 11. REUTERS

FOREST Whitaker and wife Keisha in London, Feb. 11. REUTERS

CHRISTINA Aguilera and husband Jordan Bratman in Hollywood, Feb. 11. REUTERS



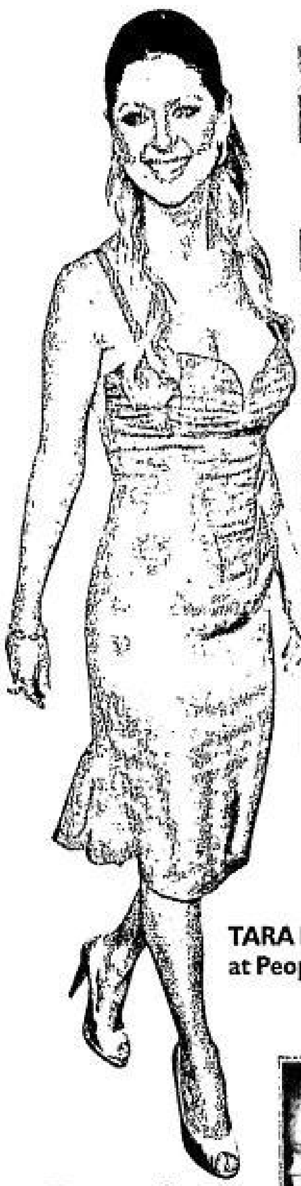
JETT PANGAN

I have a collection of books and comic books in my room. Green Lantern is my favorite comic-book superhero because he's not as popular as the others. His powers are infinite, limited only by his human nature. A few characters have assumed the role, but for me the best is Hal Jordan. I'm also re-reading "What Not to Drive" by Richard Hammond, host of BBC's "Top Gear." Despite his tight-lipped Brit humor, he's absolutely funny. He berates "uncool" cars—which, he says, can break the owner's image. There's also an American version: "Automotive Atrocities" by Eric Peters.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

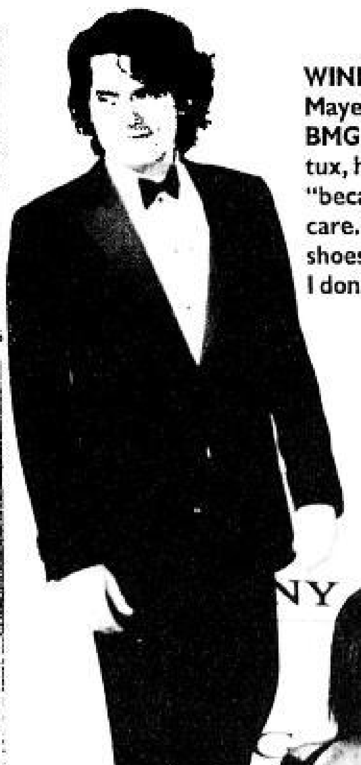
Post-Grammy celebrations

L-R, Kelly Rowland, Kerry Washington and Mischa Barton arrive at the party hosted by People magazine. REUTERS


TARA Reid also at People party. REUTERS

PARTY! PARTY!

TONY Bennett, Sony BMG guest. REUTERS


WINNER John Mayer at Sony BMG party. The tux, he said, was "because I care." The shoes, "because I don't." REUTERS

BEYONCE, Sony BMG REUTERS

FOO Fighters' Dave Grohl also at Sony BMG bash REUTERS

CIARA, Sony BMG REUTERS

WEIRD Al Yankovic, Sony BMG REUTERS

CARRIE Underwood, Sony BMG REUTERS

TERRENCE Howard, People REUTERS

JESSICA Simpson, Sony BMG REUTERS

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City
Telephone 633.2227 6332851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) GHOSTRIDER
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) THE HOLIDAY
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE FOUNTAIN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC & LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 GHOST RIDER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE PROMISE
5 TROIKA

metropolis star cinema
www.clicktheecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504265, 5433994
1 THE PROMISE
2 TROIKA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 APOCALYPTO

THEATRES
All Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3105
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 THE PROMISE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 THE PROMISE
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 (SDDS) GHOST RIDER
3 (DTS) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 (GOLD DTS) THE FOUNTAIN
5 (GOLD DOLBY) THE HOLIDAY
6 (GOLD SDDS) GHOST RIDER
7 (GOLD DOLBY) MUSIC & LYRICS
8 (DTS) APOCALYPTO / HANNIBAL RISING
9 (DTS) THE MESSENGERS
10 (SDDS) THE PROMISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE PROMISE
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC & LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) THE FOUNTAIN
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 MUSIC & LYRICS
5 TROIKA

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE PROMISE
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 TROIKA
4 APOCALYPTO/NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 TROIKA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 GHOST RIDER
2 KAMASUTRA-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MUSIC & LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 (DTS EX) THE PROMISE
4 THE HOLIDAY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE PROMISE
2 ERAGON

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE FOUNTAIN
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC & LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) THE HOLIDAY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APOCALYPTO
2 (DTS) THE PROMISE
3 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 THE PROMISE
3 (DOLBY) BLOOD DIAMOND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 THE PROMISE
2 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM/DECK THE HALLS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 (DOLBY) APOCALYPTO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 THE PROMISE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) TROIKA
2 ROOM SERVICE
3 KISKISAN
4 (DTS) APOCALYPTO

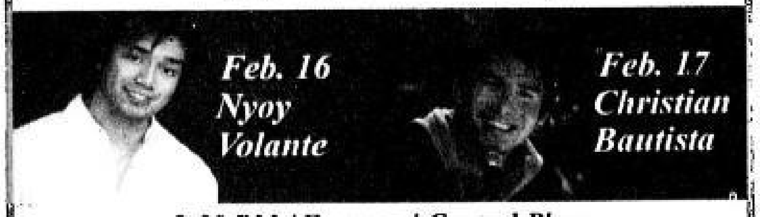
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) APOCALYPTO
2 TATLONG BARAHA
3 (DTS) THE PROMISE
4 PARAISO
5 GHOST RIDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 HANNIBAL RISING
4 THE PROMISE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 TUKSO SI CHARITO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NCTICE

Valentine
at Eastwood City


Feb. 16 Nyoy Volante
Feb. 17 Christian Bautista

8:00 PM / Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION

Radio Partner MAGIC 89.9

Eastwood City
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EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text **eastwood** and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 THE FOUNTAIN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 GHOST RIDER
2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
PG-13

3 MUSIC & LYRICS
12:55, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00
PG-13

4 THE HOLIDAY
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
PG-13

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a landmark reinvented!
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CINEMA 1 GHOST RIDER
10:30, 1:20, 4:10
7:00, 9:50
PG-13

CINEMA 2 THE PROMISE
11:10, 1:35, 4:00
6:25, 8:50
PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 THE FOUNTAIN
11:10, 1:35, 3:50
6:05, 8:20, 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 4 MUSIC AND LYRICS
11:15, 2:00, 4:40
7:20, 10:00 PG-13

CINEMA 5 GHOST RIDER
11:05, 2:00, 4:50
7:40, 10:30
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

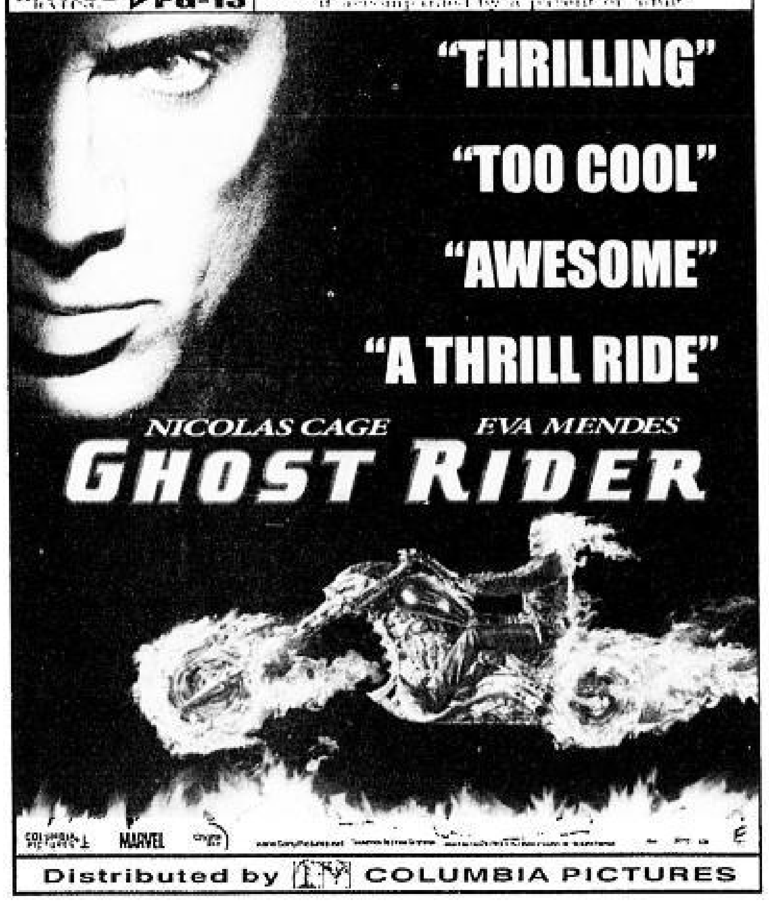
Feb. 16 & 17, 2007	Passion Y Fuego	8:00 PM
March 06, 2007	EDNA LEDESMA	8:00 PM
	" DANCING W/ THE CHAMPIONS "	
March 16 & 23, 2007	SITTI IN LOVE	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
Feb. 20, 2007	DYORDS KO PO	8:00 PM
March 9, 2007	DAVE	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

3rd 'Marvel thrill ride' day!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


"THRILLING"
"TOO COOL"
"AWESOME"
"A THRILL RIDE"

NICOLAS CAGE EVA MENDES
GHOST RIDER

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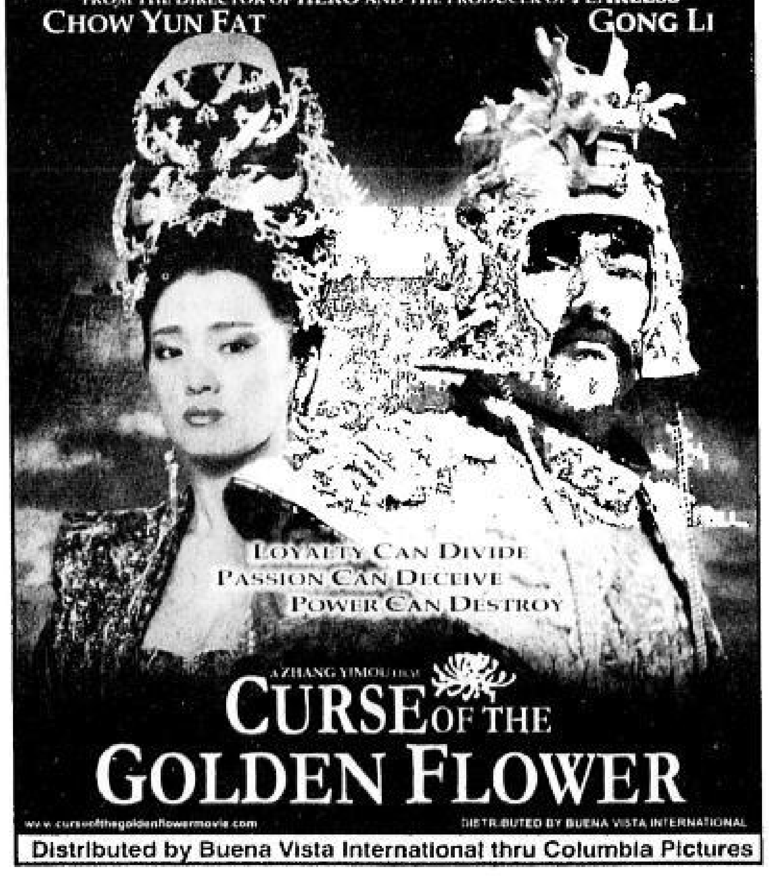
2ND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HERO AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
CHOW YUN FAT GONG LI


LOYALTY CAN DIVIDE
PASSION CAN DECEIVE
POWER CAN DESTROY

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# OPENS FEBRUARY 21
FROM WALDEN MEDIA, THE PRODUCER OF
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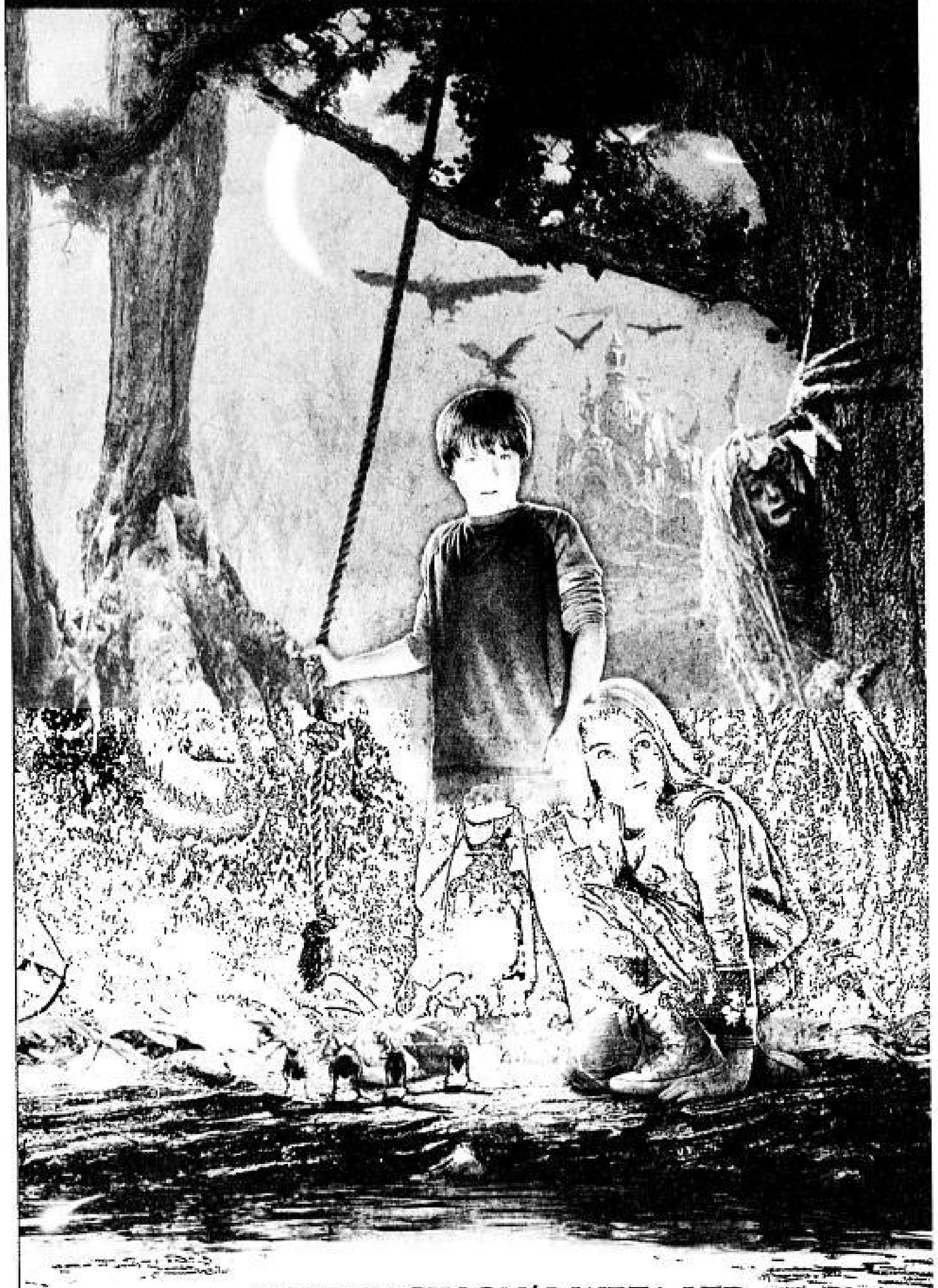
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BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

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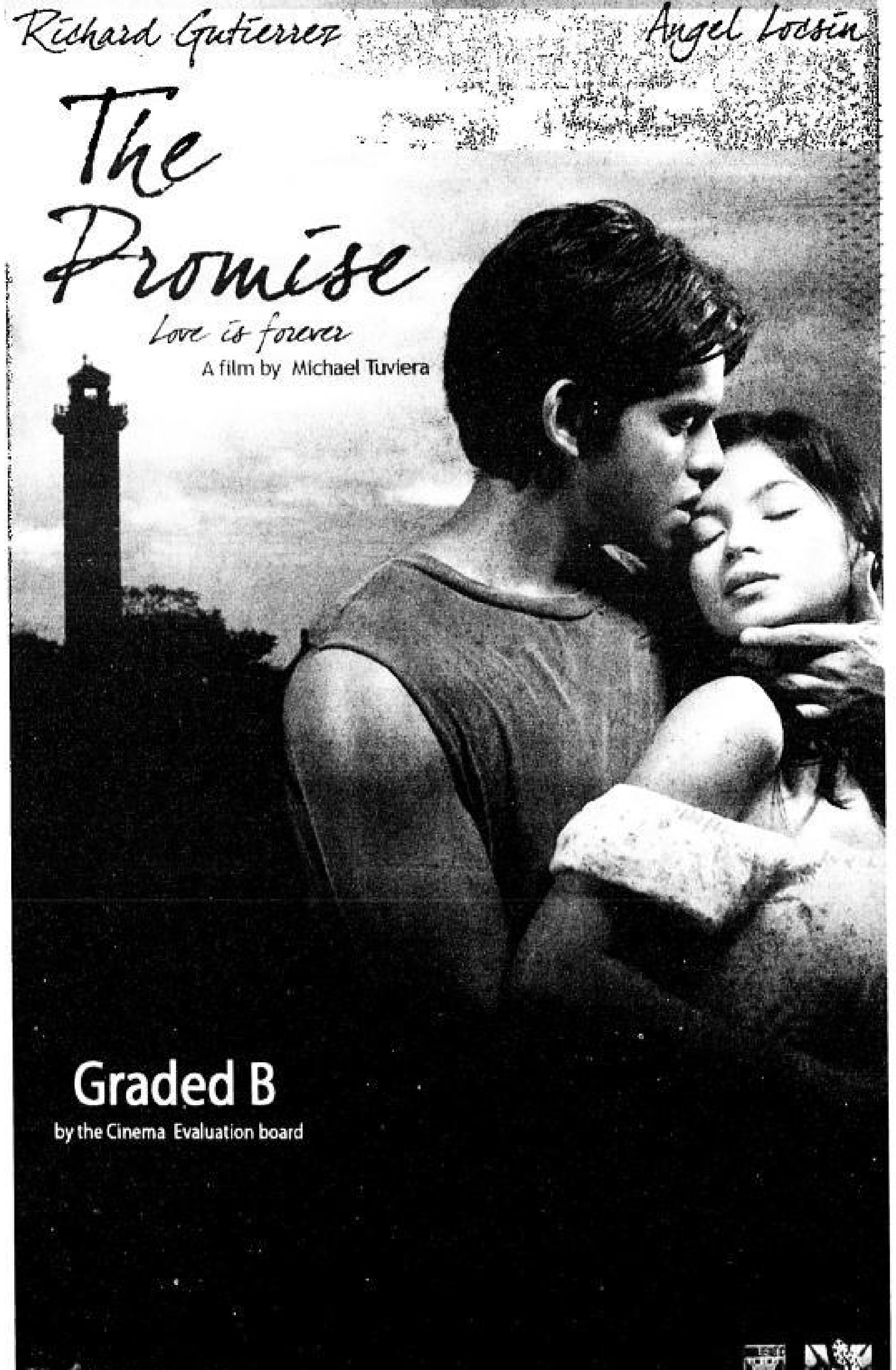
The Most Awaited Romantic Movie of the Year is Here!

Richard Gutierrez Angel Locsin

The Promise
Love is forever
A film by Michael Tuviera

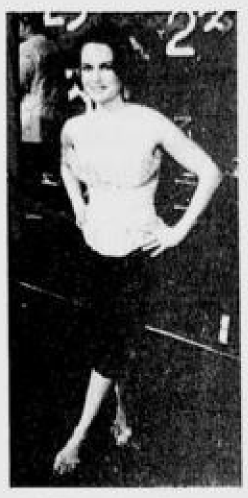

Graded B
by the Cinema Evaluation board

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Text PROMISE ON to 4627 (P2.50/ logo)

NOW SHOWING

RED CARPET

At 'The Number 23' LA preem



CARLA GUGINO
REUTERS

STACY KIEBLER
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MARLEY SHELTON
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CHRISTINA APPLEGATE
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BRITTANY SNOW
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GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P161 131 Indie Sine: 101 632-9116

1 THE MESSENGERS • THX
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

2 GHOST RIDER
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

3 indieSine: ROME and JULIET
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

4 THE FOUNTAIN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MUSIC and LYRICS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE PROMISE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 National Arts Month: PELIKUSINA

8 GHOST RIDER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 HANNIBAL RISING 12:00 2:20
THE HOLIDAY 4:40 7:20 10:00

10 TROIKA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 538-7809 to 12

1 GHOST RIDER 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

2 HANNIBAL RISING 12:10 2:40
THE HOLIDAY 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 MUSIC and LYRICS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 TROIKA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

5 THE PROMISE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 THE MESSENGERS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 THE FOUNTAIN
12.35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 GHOST RIDER
1:05 3.45 6:25 9:05

2 MUSIC and LYRICS
1:20 3:55 6:30 9.05

3 THE PROMISE
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

4 CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER 1:05 3:45
GHOST RIDER 6:25 9:05

5 THE HOLIDAY 1:00 3:50
HANNIBAL RISING 6:40 9:10

6 NIGHT at the MUSEUM 12:00 2:10 4:20
APOCALYPTO 6:30 9:00

7 THE MESSENGERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 TROIKA
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P91 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 TROIKA
4 MUSIC and LYRICS
5 THE MESSENGERS

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P102 687-5378

1 MUSIC and LYRICS
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

2 GHOST RIDER
1:25 3:45 6:05 8.25

3 THE PROMISE
1:05 3:30 5 55 8:20

4 THE FOUNTAIN
12:05 2.15 4:25 6:35 8 40

The Sexiest Date Movie
this February

Rome & Juliet

Opens On February 14
at Robinsons Galleria Indie Sine

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Winner, Best Actress
Mylene Dizon

LOVE KNOWS NO RULES.

Cinema One Originals & I.O.U. One Productions Present
a Connie S.A. Macatuno film

starring: Andrea Del Rosario Mylene Dizon Rafael Rosell Miko Palanca
Lui Villaruz Liza Dino Crispin Pineda Frances Makil-Ignacio CJ Mercado
Joshua Deocareza with Clydel Mercado
and Ms. Tessie Tomas

MTRCB Rating: R18

STA ROSA

Ticket Price P75 / 80
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1 APOCALYPTO
2 GHOST RIDER
3 CHARLOTTE's WEB
4 THE PROMISE

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 THE PROMISE
2 HANNIBAL RISING
3 The CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price P75 / 80
(046) 416-4332

1 THE MESSENGERS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 TROIKA
4 THE PROMISE

ANGELES

Ticket Price P 90
(045) 892-2348

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 MUSIC and LYRICS

IMUS

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1 THE MESSENGERS
2 THE PROMISE
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 GHOST RIDER
5 TROIKA
6 THE CLEANER

STARMILLS

Ticket Price P75 / 80
(045) 875-1927

1 THE CLEANER
2 THE PROMISE
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE MESSENGERS

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

1 GHOST RIDER
2 indieSine: COMPOUND
3 BABEL
4 THE PROMISE
5 THE CLEANER
6 CHARLOTTE's WEB

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P60.50/67.50/70.50
(033) 336-8070

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BABEL
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 THE CLEANER

Robinsons Movieworld and
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FEBRUARY 14 - 20, 2007
IndieSine, Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod

A stunning visual achievement. COMPOUND is a contemporary thriller that deals with the complexities of love, wealth and fear. A perfectly unexpected and well-executed ending make this a film not to be missed.
- Cleveland Intl. Film Festival

"Melrose Place", as seen through the unflinching eyes of David Lynch and Mike de Leon.
- Paul Daza, Philippine Daily Inquirer

a WILL FREDO film
COMPOUND
KILALA MO SILA

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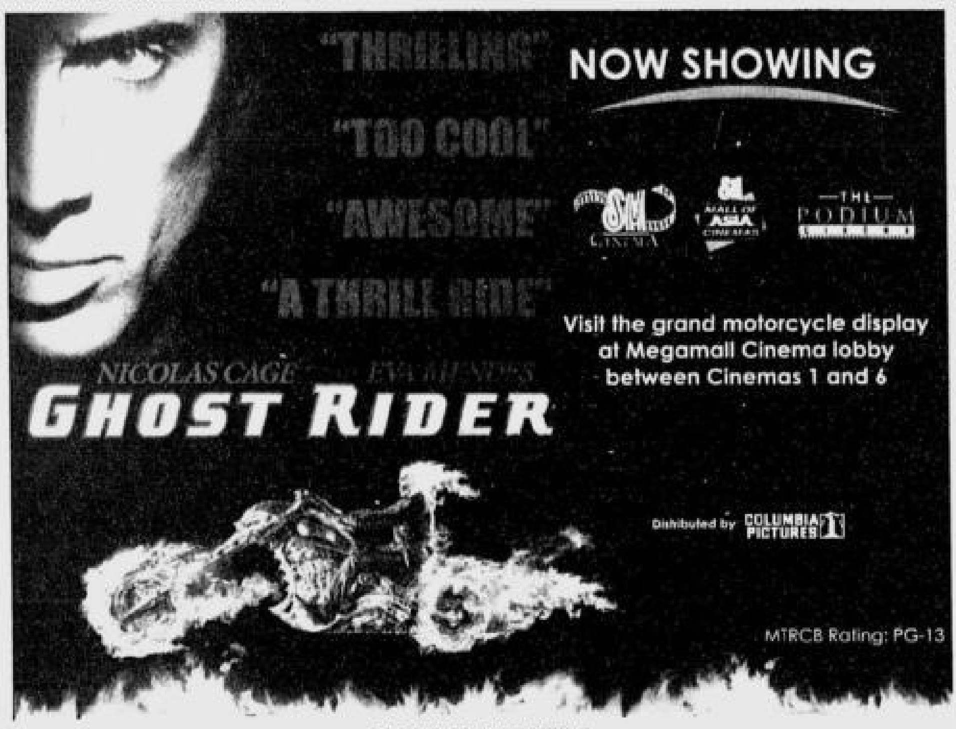

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MTRCB Rating: PG-13

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SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
San Miguel Coca-Cola IMAX Theatre
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3:30PM 5:50PM 8:10PM 10:30PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
T-REX IN 3D
10:30AM 11:45PM 1:00PM 2:15PM
Admission Fee- P200
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE FOUNTAIN
5 THE CLEANER/
THE HOLIDAY
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
PREMIERE CINEMA
THE PROMISE
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
GHOST RIDER
CINEMA 2
MUSIC AND LYRICS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CATCH AND RELEASE
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 GHOST RIDER
7 MUSIC AND LYRICS
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 THE CLEANER
10 AGENT X44
11 THE PROMISE
12 THE MESSENGER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE FOUNTAIN
2 THE HOLIDAY
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE MESSENGER
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 AGENT X44
8 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
9 RESERVED
10 THE PROMISE
11 BABEL
12 THE CLEANER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 AGENT X44
3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
5 MUSIC AND LYRICS
6 THE PROMISE
7 GHOST RIDER
8 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
9 THE MESSENGER
10 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
11 THE CLEANER
12 THE PROMISE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 THE MESSENGER
6 THE CLEANER
7 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
8 AGENT X44
9 THE HOLIDAY
10 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 THE MESSENGER
6 THE PROMISE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE PROMISE
2 THE FOUNTAIN
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 GHOST RIDER
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
7 THE HOLIDAY
8 THE MESSENGER
9 THE CLEANER

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE FOUNTAIN
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 THE MESSENGER
6 GHOST RIDER
7 THE HOLIDAY
8 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
9 THE PROMISE
10 AGENT X44
11 ROB-B-HOOD
12 THE CLEANER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323301-04
1 THE MESSENGER
2 THE PROMISE
3 TENACIOUS D
4 GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 THE MESSENGER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM movietime exclusive presents

CATCH AND RELEASE

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Distributed by Columbia Pictures MTRCB Rating: PG-13

LUZON

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1 ROB-B-HOOD
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE MESSENGER
5 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
6 THE PROMISE
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5 THE HOLIDAY
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7 THE PROMISE
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

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3 THE CLEANER
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
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6 BLOOD DIAMOND

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3 THE PROMISE
4 THE MESSENGER

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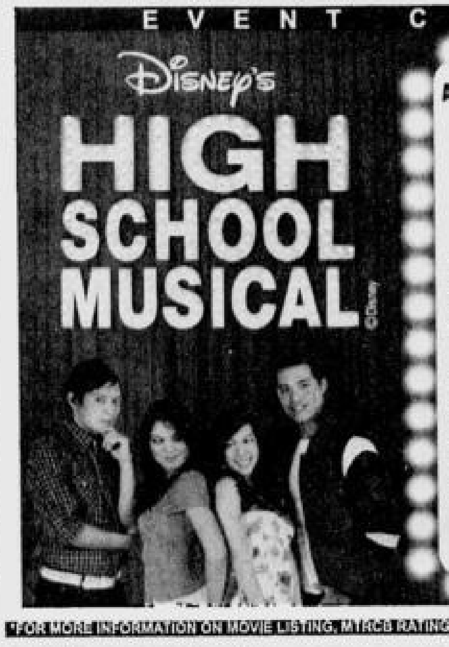

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THE DIRECTOR'S chair is a souvenir from "Starstruck."

WINNIE the Pooh dolls are gifts from boyfriend Alfred Vargas.

THE MERMAID figurine is from the Sea World shop in a Florida airport, left. The makeup area, above, serves as mini-kitchen, where perfume bottles and seashells are displayed along with snacks and chocolates.

LJ: Life's a beach

An amateur decorator, the 'Starstruck' finalist also runs a household at the tender age of 19

HOME BODY

THERE'S a shell terrarium in the bedroom.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Roger Carpio

ALTHOUGH SHE SEEMS girlish and giggly on TV, Lourna Jane "LJ" Reyes is already running a household at the tender age of 19.

Believe it or not, she also has a "mature" side.

Fortunately, older sister Lorraine and a staff keep her company since mom Lalaine is working in the United States.

LJ believes their current home set-up is a great training ground for the future.

"I am studying and working at the same time," she relates. "Since I'm now earning, I take care of my own bills. I'm in charge of the salaries of my production assistant and driver. This prepares me for living on my own."

As testament to her grit and grace, LJ, who is currently seen on GMA-7 shows "S.O.P." and "Makita Ka Lang Muli," landed on the dean's list in De La Salle, where she's taking up Economics and Management of Financial Institutions.

"It's [sometimes] hard, but it's [really] just a matter of time management," she says.

On top of all this, she also recently set up a small business, Popoy's Grill on Commonwealth.

The budding businesswoman is also an amateur decorator.

She designed her bedroom, combining two rooms and turning them into her sleeping quarters, dressing/makeup room and walk-in closet.

"Every little detail was my personal choice. I chose the fabric for the Roman shades and the blue paint for the walls," she relates.

LJ explains that she chose baby blue because it reminds her of the ocean. "The beach has a calming effect on me."

Sand from Boracay and seashells from everywhere are strewn all over the place, along with blue dolphin study lamps and a mermaid figurine from a Sea World Florida shop.

Even her bathroom has a beach motif—blue walls, seashell décor and marina-themed shower curtain.

She put in a sink in the makeup area. "That area used to be my old bathroom. During the renovation, I couldn't dismantle it because it would affect the entire structure of the house. So I retained the sink. Now, it serves as a mini-kitchen, where I keep chocolates and snacks," she points out.

The director's chair by her study table is a souvenir from "Starstruck," she shares.

LJ and her family moved in a year and a half ago.

"My mom chose the paintings, curtains and décor for the living and dining rooms, but she left our rooms to my sister and me," she says.

Even though it's far from school and the studio, LJ has grown fond of their home in the outskirts of Quezon City.

"It's very quiet and cool here at night. I don't see tall buildings, so I am not reminded of GMA-7. I'm far away from stress," LJ quips with a hearty laugh.

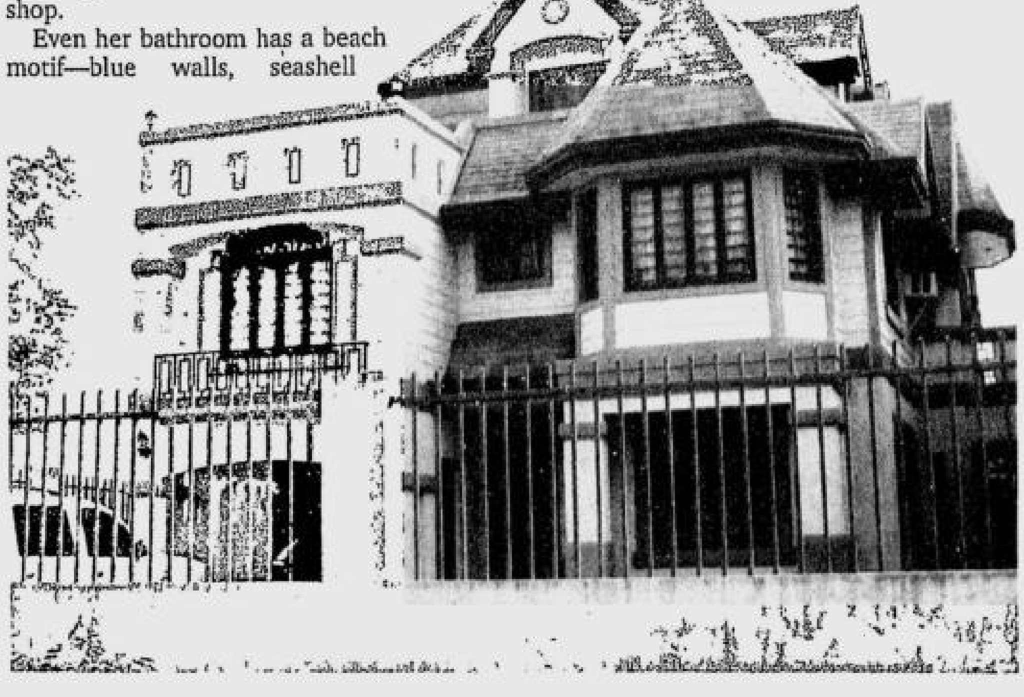
3-D CARICATURE made in Malaysia is "Alfred's Christmas gift to me."

LJ HANGS out in the terrace that also doubles as "party" area.

HER MOM handpicked this dining table.

LJ IN the dining room that leads to the grotto.

HER SHOE collection is in the walk-in closet.



THE TEEN star calls her home, left, her refuge from stress and intrigues. The living room, above, was styled by LJ's mom.